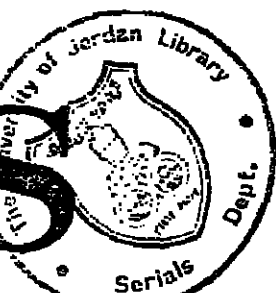


THE TIMES



Heath plane in near miss at airport

Mr Edward Heath was on board a Dan Air HS 748 airliner which was involved yesterday in a near miss with two Nato fighters (Our Transport Correspondent writes). According to one report, the Dutch F-16 jets were flying at 800ft across Yeoman airport, Leeds, just after Mr Heath's plane took off.

Diplomat faces secrets charge

Rhona Jane McIntyre Ritchie, aged 29, the recently appointed British Embassy in Tel Aviv, was charged with passing information under the Official Secrets Act when she appeared at Hammersmith Road Magistrates' Court, on Thursday. She was remanded on bail until April 27.

Prosser warders are cleared

Three prison officers accused of murdering Barry Prosser in a cell at Winton Green prison, Birmingham, in August, 1980, were acquitted at Leicester Crown Court after a 15-day trial. All three had pleaded not guilty.

Half-day strikes by teachers

Teachers in England and Wales are to hold a series of half-day strikes in protest against their employers' refusal of arbitration on their pay claim.

Opec cutback

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Vienna to set a production ceiling of 18 million barrels per day in a bid to hold crude prices to present levels.

Arabs strike

Tension among Arabs in the occupied West Bank mounted and many began a 72-hour protest strike against the latest clampdown by Israeli military authorities who banned three Arab newspapers.

US accused

Nicaragua has accused the United States of plotting to invade its territory and has asked the United Nations Security Council to meet urgently to consider "this grave situation".

Captain blamed

The captain of the coaster that ran aground off Cornwall last December, leading to the death of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penleev inquest jury decided.

Tax advice

Why pay more to the taxman than necessary? Family Money looks at ways of minimising your tax liability as the end of the tax year approaches.

Alan Badel dies

Alan Badel, the actor probably best known for his BBC television role as the Count of Monte Cristo, died suddenly yesterday from a heart attack, aged 58.

Slump in Reagan popularity

President Reagan's popularity after 14 months in office has fallen below President Carter's after the same period, according to a New York Times CBS News poll. Most Americans disagree with the President's unyielding stance on taxes and defence spending.



President Reagan's popularity after 14 months in office has fallen below President Carter's after the same period, according to a New York Times CBS News poll. Most Americans disagree with the President's unyielding stance on taxes and defence spending.

Leader page 7
Letters: On Europe, from Sir Henry Plumb, MEP; corporal punishment, from Mr D. Harris and others; satellite TV, from Lady Falkender.
Leading articles: religious education; French franc; London fares.
Obituary, page 8
Marshall V. I. Chuklov.
Features, page 6
Arnold Wesker joins this debate on the Hitler play; a likely king-maker at Hillhead; explorer heroes past and present; lunch with Andy Warhol.

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Three-year ban on England rebel cricketers

By Our Sports Staff

The English cricketers playing in matches against a South African team, under the captaincy of Graham Gooch of Essex, have been banned from Test cricket for three years.

This was announced at Lord's yesterday by Mr George Mann, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). He added that there had been a unanimous vote among the 21 members of the board, 17 representing the counties, two the minor counties and two the MCC.

In addition, those counties with players involved in South Africa have volunteered "out of deference to India and Pakistan" not to include them in teams chosen for matches against the touring sides this summer.

A report drawn up by the executive committee of the TCCB set out the reasons for this decision, which Mr Mann saw as a "tragedy in the case of players like Gooch". It is thought that any players appearing regularly for England in those three years might have expected to earn £50,000 in addition to their usual county income.

But there was no alternative. The players in South Africa could not have expected to play Test cricket this summer in any case because it had been made clear that both India and Pakistan, the visitors to England, would have cancelled the tour.

In the next six touring seasons, three at home and three away, all involved countries are strongly opposed to the link with South Africa, except perhaps for the Australians next winter. Therefore, the sequence of the World Cup and New Zealand at home in 1983, Pakistan and New Zealand away, West Indies at home in 1984, and India away.

The TCCB calculated that the cost of this country if the series against India and Pakistan were cancelled, would be about £2m. Neither India nor Pakistan had openly declared

their unwillingness to come if players in South Africa were included in England Test teams, but this was the TCCB's clear understanding.

The board had considered the legal aspects and believed they were not in the same vulnerable position as they were in the case of the Kerry Packer players five years ago. Things had changed. Glen Eagles had happened, and the players had been warned by letter some months ago of the possible consequences of accepting contracts in South Africa.

Mr Peter Cooke, the tour manager, said in Cape Town that the players would not comment publicly on the issue before the tour ended but Gooch said this morning, before the news came through: "What have I done wrong? I am a professional cricketer with a right to a living."

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, said in a statement: "I welcome the decision taken by the Test and County Cricket Board. This is a major step forward. It is in the spirit of the Gleneagles Agreement and reflects what Commonwealth leaders expect of their sporting bodies. It will have a significant effect in strengthening Commonwealth and international sport. These are always difficult decisions and there can be no question that this is an important stand on principle."

Mr Sam Ramsamy, the chairman of the South African National Olympic Committee (SANROC), felt the TCCB should have gone further by placing an indefinite Test ban on the rebels. "The statement by the TCCB, although not completely acceptable, is nevertheless a step in the right direction. It falls short of the assurance given to the Board of Control for Cricket in India that the rebels will be automatically 'out' of the players' list. The players would not be eligible for selection for England."

Further reaction, page 17

Smell of success in Jenkins camp

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Glasgow

Mr Roy Jenkins, Social Democrat/Alliance candidate in the Glasgow Hillhead, election, believes that house-to-house visits by his party workers in recent weeks have recorded considerable evidence that previously undecided voters are ready to support him.

Although some Alliance canvassers are inexperienced, there is supporting evidence for Mr Jenkins from workers for other parties. Each candidate yesterday was making guarded claims in public, but confidence among the SDP and Liberal teams was higher than in rival camps.

It was boasted on Thursday night when 600 people attended a meeting at school hall to hear Dr David Owen, Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers and Mr Jenkins speak. Another 400 people sat or stood outside for more than two hours while the four SDP leaders came out in turn to speak and answer questions.

Mr Edward Heath, for the Conservatives, attracted 800 people and a large number of Labour, 300 to simultaneous meetings, from an electorate of 40,000. There is a high level of interest in political argument in Glasgow and the questioning mainly on economic management but frequently on defence and devolution, was invariably shrewd.

With four relatively strong candidates small shifts of support in the final days could be decisive. The figure whose

Incendiary devices sent to SDP offices

Two incendiary devices were found in the morning mail at the SDP offices in Edinburgh and Glasgow yesterday (Jonathan White writes). Both were dealt with by Army bomb disposal units and no one was injured.

The Edinburgh package, described by police as "a crude incendiary device", was found by a volunteer worker who noticed that the lettering was similar to that on an anonymous letter received at the end of February which said: "The safest place for an English middle class party is England, as you will soon find out". Geoffrey Smith, page 6

Pressure on franc eases

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 19

On the eve of the weekend truce, when the exchanges are closed, the pressure against the franc which has been building up to a dangerous pitch in the last few days, eased a little, thanks to the combined efforts of the Bank of France and of the German, Dutch and Swiss central banks.

The dollar was selling at 6.226 francs against 6.243 francs when business opened this morning and the Deutsche Mark at 2.6139 francs against 2.616 francs.

It remains to be seen whether this improvement persists when dealings are resumed on Monday. It was due mainly to the conviction of international investors that because the second ballot of the local elections takes place on Sunday, any devaluation over the weekend is ruled out. If the left-wing majority does badly at the polls, as the indications are at present, this

will give a new impetus to speculation against the franc. Even so, President Mitterrand would prefer to lose his right hand rather than decide next week to carry out a second devaluation six months after the last.

It all depends on the results next Sunday. If President Mitterrand decides that they are bad for the left, because of the desertion of moderate voters, he might switch to a more moderate policy which would reassure both them and international financiers. This would give the Socialist Government time to put its economic house in order.

But if the President comes to the conclusion that the expected setback to the Government majority is due to the insufficient mobilization, as last Sunday, of left-wing voters, then he probably will choose to radicalize his policy



Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington welcoming Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and his wife Hannelore at RAF Benson, near Oxford, yesterday (Page 5).

Mugging victims 10pc Asian

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

A high proportion of the victims of mugging, robbery and violent theft in London originate in the Indian subcontinent, according to statistics released to The Times by Scotland Yard.

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that of the 18,763 such offences committed last year, 82.2 per cent of the victims were European, 10.8 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction, 3.6 per cent of African or West Indian origin and 2.6 per cent of other ethnic groups.

Although there are no conclusive figures, a 1977 survey of housing, carried out by the Department of the Environment, estimated that 85.9 per cent of the population of Greater London was European, compared with 5 per cent African or West Indian by origin, 5 per cent others, and only 4.1 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction.

The tally of victims revealed to The Times on the authority of Mr Gilbert Kelland, Assistant Commissioner, "crimes show the other side of a controversial London press conference last week."

He said then that the Yard was concerned that there had been a 34 per cent increase in offences of robbery and violent theft in London last year, bringing the total to 18,763 cases. Particular criticism followed the disclosure that 55 per cent of assaults had been identified as "coloured appearance."

A specific inquiry by The Times on victims was considered by Scotland Yard for two days while the figures were collated. They were then released, along with a refusal to answer any questions on them.

Unlike last week's figures for ethnic appearance of assaults, a breakdown of the victims' origins for public consumption was not given by Mr Kelland and was not appropriate. The Yard also refused to release information on the "racial spread" of assaults.

The Home Office was informed before Scotland Yard released the victim figures. They were given in seven categories: White-skinned European, 14,557 offences, 77.6 per cent; dark-skinned European, 1,457 per cent; black-skinned or West Indian, 678 (3.6 per cent); Indo-Pakistani or Bangladeshi, 2,021 (10.8 per cent); Chinese or Japanese, 167 (0.9 per cent); Arab, 129 (0.7 per cent); not known, 353, (1.9 per cent).

Anderton censured by his own police authority

From John Chartres, Manchester

The latest and most acerbic clash between Mr. James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and his Labour-controlled county police committee may be referred to the Home Secretary.

During a meeting that lasted two and a half hours yesterday Mr Anderton was censured by his police authority for his handling of the Laurence Scott Electro Motors dispute in Openshaw, Manchester, ordered to expand on the statements he made about the constitution of police committees, particularly a reference to some members being "unfit" to hold responsible office, and had a vote of confidence in him defeated by 16-12.

The crux of the meeting was a demand by Councillor Peter Kelly, the committee chairman, that Mr Anderton should clarify the statements he made earlier in the week and indicate that allegations about, or derogatory references to, members of police committees did not refer to members of the Greater Manchester committee.

Failing that, Mr Kelly demanded, he should supply specific evidence supporting the "vague" allegations, and references "either to the committee itself, to its clerk, (Mr Anthony Harrison, chief executive of Greater Manchester County Council) or to the legal profession."

Mr Anderton refused to supply such information. He told Mr Kelly: "As chief constable I am under no obligation to justify to you or any other member of the public my remarks. I have no intention of clarifying my remarks."

He did, however, state at one stage that his remarks earlier in the week about police committees did not refer specifically to his own police authority.

Inflation standstill last month

By David Blake Economics Editor

Prices stood still in February, the first month in 12 years that the Retail Price Index has shown no increase at all. The index, the most generally accepted measure of inflation, stood at 310.7, showing that prices had risen by 11 per cent over the previous year.

In January, the annual rate of increase had been 12 per cent, the highest since 1971. The highest contribution to the drop in inflation in February was the falling petrol price, and the withdrawal of supplementary rate demands in London and the West Midlands.

Some benefit will be lost from dearer fares on London Transport this weekend and petrol prices which went up because of the Budget. However, because the Chancellor put up taxes on petrol, drink and tobacco by less than in 1981, the annual inflation rate may drop again in March.

The Treasury's forecast that inflation would be running at 9 per cent in the final quarter of this year looks slightly pessimistic. Productivity went up very sharply in industry last year, so that wage costs in Britain only rose 21 per cent between December, 1980, and December, 1981. Table, page 15

Churches want controls on test-tube births

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The Church of England and Britain's nonconformist churches have given their approval to fertilisation outside the womb, providing the egg and sperm come from the couple concerned, but want greater control over artificial insemination by donor (AID).

They have added their voice to the demands for a public inquiry into the ethical implications of test-tube babies and the increased use of AID.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, Mr Ian Kennedy, former Reith Lecturer and Reader in Law at King's College London, and other senior academics called last month for an expanded debate on the issues.

The British Medical Association has set up its own working party but the churches want a wider inquiry.

In a report to be published tomorrow the Free Church Federal Council and the British Council of Churches deliver their most comprehensive statement on the issues surrounding human reproduction for 20 years.

The churches condemn "surrogate motherhood", the process by which a woman conceives and bears a child for another childless couple, and say it should be legally banned. They predict that it could lead to baby sales, which should also be illegal, they say.

The report, produced by a 15-man working party, chaired by the Very Rev Peter Bael, Dean of Durham, says a decision to remain childless can be a valid choice within a Christian marriage. Equally it is acceptable for infertile couples who want children to seek medical help. But not all

means available to them are morally justifiable.

The limits are transgressed in surrogate motherhood because the prenatal relationship between mother and baby are disrupted and the link between biological and social parent-hood deliberately broken. "It is to reduce procreation to nothing more than a biological process."

Similar objections rule out the practice of "womb leasing" where a woman with a healthy womb nurtures a fertilized egg for another woman.

In vitro fertilization, where the ovum and sperm belong to the couple concerned, is acceptable and can be seen simply as an extension of artificial insemination by husband, but serious ethical problems arise if the procedure is extended to include the use of donor ova or sperm, which the working party sees as driving a wedge between biological and social parenthood. Some members felt a Christian couple should agree to have children by each other or not at all.

The report suggests six social and legal measures which should be taken in safeguard the offspring of AID. These include legislation to deal with the existing situation that an AID child is technically illegitimate.

It recommends that AID children should be brought up to know the truth about their parentage, just as adopted children are now often told they are adopted, and should have access, if they seek it, to their genetic records. The name of the donor should stay secret.

Choices in Children's (Free Church Federal Council, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EH, price 80p).

Another fare rise likely for London

By Nicholas Timmins and Michael Bailly

Londoners face a possible 25 per cent fare rise for the autumn, on top of tomorrow's record increase of 100 per cent. That is what would be needed to meet the extra £40m cost if London Transport workers win their fight for a 12 per cent wage rise in place of the 5 per cent budgeted for by LT. There is no chance of the extra cost being met by additional help from either the Government or the Greater London Council, and it would therefore have to come from fares to keep LT within the law.

After six months of the cheap fares introduced by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council - and subsequently declared illegal by the Law Lords, London commuters face a gloomy day on Monday with fares rising to about a third higher than the levels of last autumn.

Worst hit will be commuters living in inner suburbs such as Kensington and working in the City, whose two-zone Underground fare goes up 130 per cent from 30p to 70p. Zonal bus fares will double, from 10p to 20p; minimums from 30p to 60p for two zones; and from 40p to 80p for three zones.

The price of bus passes will be doubled, as will the flat fare for children, from 5p to 10p. Underground fares generally will rise by an average of 94 per cent.

The prospect was yesterday described by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, as ugly and deplorable.

Mr Howell said that Londoners should not blame the Government, as a current series of GLC advertisements invited commuters to "blame the fare rises" for the "fiasco" of GLC policies. He had asked the GLC to prepare positive plans to improve LT and if they failed the Government would have to impose other solutions.

London Transport estimate that as a direct result of this weekend's fare rises, bus travel will decline by 190,000 journeys a year (5 per cent) and Underground by 55,000 (10 per cent).

Bus service cuts in two stages

About 20 per cent of these lost journeys will be made by car or motorcycle, 40 per cent on foot or bicycle, the 40 per cent on public transport, each by British Rail 40 per cent and 20 per cent will no longer take place. An increase of 300,000 vehicle-miles a day by bus and taxi (3 per cent) is forecast.

The sole bright spot is that services will not be cut as planned this weekend because the unions have refused to countenance the resultant loss of earnings.

But in Underground services have been postponed for a month. Cuts in bus services, which will result in marginally longer waiting times, are expected in two stages, in April and July.

London Transport estimates that there will be an 18 per cent loss of traffic this year. By 1984, on figures from LT's outline budget, up to 1,200 million passenger miles, almost a quarter of the total, could be lost.

Despite plans to reduce jobs by perhaps 5,000 by 1984, the figures suggest that productivity will still decline to its lowest level, perhaps 73,000 passenger miles per employee, 16 per cent lower than last year, and under 100,000, the 170,000 achieved by the transport system in Paris.

Although various measures can be used to assess productivity - and some of those LT shows improvement - on passenger miles for each employee, LT's performance has been declining for more than a decade.

In the early 1970s LT handled about 21,100 million passenger journeys a year, while Paris managed about 1,600 million. A decade later their positions were almost reversed. London's passenger journeys had fallen to 1,750 million, while Paris was carrying 2,050 million.

Simple zonal fare structures

The Paris achievement lay essentially in an investment programme of £1,800m, in a period when LT's capital spending the £550m. Subsidies produced cheaper fares, while London charged more for a deteriorating service. More importantly, Paris produced simple zonal fare structures, tickets that could be used on the Metro and buses, far less cash collection of fares, and the widespread use of one-man operation, with a pruning of platform staff on the Metro.

Paris runs its system on 40,000 staff, against LT's 60,000, London needing half as many staff again to carry 15 per cent fewer passengers, a position briefly improved by the GLC's Fare's Fair scheme, with its resulting increase in travel.

This comparison is less than fair, because the Metro plays a bigger role in transport in Paris than the Underground in London, and trains carry many more passengers per crew than buses. In addition, some of Paris's gain will shortly be off.

Continued on back page, col 7

science report
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March 19, 1982
Nature-Times News Service

Captain was at fault, Penlee jury decides

Henry Moreton, captain of the Union Star, the coaster that ran aground in a storm off the Cornish coast, leading to the deaths of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penlee jury decided yesterday.

The jury of eight men, sitting at Funchal, returned a verdict of manslaughter against Captain Moreton, aged 33, and verdicts of accidental death on 15 others, Mr Moreton's wife Dawn, his two teenage daughters, his four crewmen and the eight Penlee lifeboat men who lost their lives going to the help of the stricken coaster on the night of December 19 last near Land's End.

The jury said death was due to the injury sustained by those lost in the lifeboat, or drowning for those lost in the coaster. One crewman from the Union Star was found still wearing a lifebelt.

The verdicts came after the inquest had heard that Captain Moreton, taking the Union Star on a maiden voyage to Ireland, had refueled a tow for more than an hour when his engines had broken down, saying he was in no great difficulty.

He had not lowered the mast of the coaster, hampering rescue attempts by a hovering Royal Navy rescue helicopter. According to evidence, the Union Star had shown "no sense of urgency" as the crew of the lifeboat made repeated runs alongside in the mountains seas close to the cliffs and beckoned them to leave the wheelhouse. One lifeboat did force a jump in to the lifeboat.

Evidence from the captain of a salvage tug also showed that at no time during the emergency did Captain Moreton put out a Mayday call over a period of more than two hours, in which time the ship drifted closer to the rocks and 60 ft high breakers.

New evidence heard at the inquest yesterday suggested that the Penlee lifeboat, the Brownie, having picked four people from the Union Star shortly before it overturned, was trying to get home, possibly damaged, and was making slow progress dangerously close to rocks near Tater Du, near Land's End. Lifeboat paint marks were later found on those rocks.

Mr Derrick Pepperell, the West Cornwall coroner, told the jury that a manslaughter verdict was appropriate when perhaps a person brought consequences on himself unnecessarily.

Bearing in mind that the coaster had been in communication with the coastguard right through the emergency, the jury might consider, he said, that there may have been, and he was not saying there was any, fall far short of gross negligence or a wicked and reckless disregard for the safety of others, which would constitute unlawful killing.

The inquest heard that one of the 16 bodies that were recovered, those of four lifeboatmen, including the coxswain Mr Trevelyan, and those of two of the crew, were recovered by the Solomon Browne before it was wrecked.

Yesterday Mr Michael Buttery, a fisherman from Mousehole, the home of the Penlee crew, told the inquest that an auxiliary coastguard he had been with a cliff rescue party which made its way towards the spot where the 1,400-ton coaster was going aground.

He said he had heard on the radio-telephone the lifeboat report that it had taken four survivors and was heading for home. On Thursday, Captain Johan Burman, the master of the salvage tug, Noorde Holland, said that he thought the lifeboat had been making a desperate run for shelter when it was lost.

Mr Buttery said he had seen the lights of the Solomon Browne off the Tater Du rocks a distance from the wrecked coaster, later estimated at 600 yards. He said: "I remember saying to one of my crew 'Bloody hell, what is the lifeboat doing in that close?' It was very close, really close."

Mr Buttery said he thought the Solomon Browne's steering gear must have been damaged, and it was hardly making any progress. Suddenly the lifeboat had swung right round and was heading straight into the shore, only 30 to 40 yards away.

He told the inquest: "Then the lifeboat's lights suddenly disappeared and two or three minutes after that we had this strong smell of diesel."

Mr John Chadwick, the south-west district surveyor for the RNLI, said the lifeboat could have been damaged when it took four people off the coaster without the coxswain realizing it. The inquest had heard that on one occasion a large wave had carried the Solomon Browne right on to the deck of the Union Star and off again.

After the inquest Mr Frank Wallis, whose son Gary died in the lifeboat, said that the recently announced public inquiry into the tragedy was necessary to answer many questions, especially why the Union Star's mast had not been lowered to help the helicopter and why the crew and passengers had not come out of the wheelhouse when the lifeboat arrived.



Prisoners help the blind

Life-sentence prisoners at (left) and Brian Stalley (right) who are partially sighted, with Sukhita Wauters, who is blind. They are aged nine. The prisoners treated 12 pupils to a party at Wornwood Scrubs yesterday to celebrate the first anniversary of the scheme. Two hundred books, including the Bible and the Koran, have been transcribed. The prisoners in the blind unit take a £1 cut in pay because jobs there are classed as non-industrial.

Civil Service sex inequality 'rife'

Sexual inequality in the Civil Service is rife, with most women concentrated in low-grade and low-paid jobs, the Society of Civil and Public Servants says.

The society, which represents 100,000 middle-grade civil and public servants, says in a booklet published today that Government figures show that women make up 99 per cent of the secretarial group and almost 80 per cent of the lowest clerical grade.

But their numbers drop dramatically as the status of the grade increases, and there are no women at the level of permanent secretary, it says. Only four (2.6 per cent) hold posts at deputy secretary level; 27 (4.7 per cent) at under-secretary level and 62 (5.6 per cent) at assistant secretary level.

By contrast, there are 41 male permanent secretaries; 147 male deputy secretaries; 578 male under-secretaries and 1,042 male assistant secretaries, the booklet says.

In the secretarial grades, there are 20,910 women typists, compared with 114 men, and 4,527 women personal secretaries, compared with 39 men. The society calls for a "fundamental reassessment of Civil Service policies and procedures" to eliminate the sex segregation, which it says results from a history of discriminatory practices.

The equal pay and sex discrimination Acts have helped to remove the most overt forms of discrimination and opened job opportunities to women, it says. But they have not had much success in achieving equal pay and opportunities in the wider sense.

"Many women are still underpaid in relation to the men they work with and in relation to their level of skill and effort. Furthermore, most women are still concentrated in low-grade, low-paid women's jobs with few career prospects."

Equality — the Next Step: The Changing Role of Women in the Civil Service (Society of Civil and Public Servants, 124/130 Southwark Street, London, SE1).

Letter from Colonsay

Under the sea comes the spice of island life

From Jonathan Wills, Colonsay

"I'll only be a force eight" said the purser reassuringly as the Glen Sannox buffeted her way southwards through uncountable megawatts of wasted Atlantic wave power. The Colonsay ferry left Oban far behind and conditions got far worse. After a three-hour drive through the steeling dawn from Edinburgh, the inner Rutherford, the shopkeeper, man was in need of sustenance. The tea bar of the good ship Glen Sannox is a fleeting, hesitant affair and in a mad March gale you have to be quick to catch it. As we slammed through the tide race in the Firth of Lorne those ham rolls somehow did not seem quite as appetizing after all.

Thirty-seven miles later the bare geological bones of the Colonsay coast flashed briefly to starboard in a burst of sunlight, only to vanish as another squall ripped the sea state well up the Beaufort Scale.

The pier at Scalasaigh had conered a patch of sunlight as the ferry strained at her wharves in the swell and discharged her Colonsay cargo. Not much of it, explained Mr Kevin Byrne, the genial orange-bearded host at the only hotel on the island. "Light ship, that's why you had a rough passage. Still, it's twice as far as crossing the English Channel but only half the price."

In the public bar the ranks of the regulars have been thinned by funerals and emigration but the survivors are talking about the best time that Colonsay has had for a very long time. "The Hydro" is coming. In this part of Scotland that means mains electricity, not mains water ("That's the next thing on the shopping list," Mr Byrne explained).

After years of discussion and petitions, the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board has said that it will lay a submarine power cable next year from Islay, 13 miles to the south-west.

Everyone agrees that the hydro will revolutionize life on this idyllic but sometimes inconvenient island. The farmers and crofters will get the mains into their byres, workshops and hay drying barns; light industry will become a possibility; and a big development at the hotel (excluding Muzak, we are glad to learn) will make the place bigger, warmer and better equipped.

"We shall get central heating and a laundry," Mr Byrne said. "At present we have to send the laundry over 100 miles to Glasgow, via Oban. It is an expensive business and it also means we are exporting a job from Colonsay."

While waiting for the "hydro" the islanders have not been sitting back and doing nothing. Five years ago a group of public-spirited people, led by Mr Keith Rutherford, the shopkeeper, and Dr Hall Gardner, the GP, set up the Colonsay Community Electricity Association Limited, to do something about the superannuated diesel generator on the island.

In those days you had to ring up your neighbour to see if she was using her electric fire before you dared switch on your "Jenny" machine. The new "Jenny" is more reliable, even if the electric lights are on the dim side, but it produces power at 28p a unit. The Highlands and Islands Development Board came in with a subsidy to keep down the charges to the mainland levels, pending a survey for a cable route to the mainland.

Now the experts have concluded that a power cable can not only be laid to Colonsay through the fierce tide races of the west coast but is equally important, it can be maintained.

"Yes, Colonsay is now joining Scotland," Mr Byrne says. "There's even a spice rack in the local shop and we have just got a new central storage tank, too."

Paying the £400 and odd installation charge for the mains should not be too much of a blow at Colonsay. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal's pleasant pink and white mansion, set in a fertile Kew Gardens in the fertile Kiloran Valley. But for some of the older folk in the crofts the money could be a difficulty, as could the guarantees demanded by the hydro board that consumers use at least £200 of power a year.

In 1841 there were nearly 1,000 people on Colonsay. Last year there were 134 and now there are just 121 on Dr Gardner's list. The hope is that the "hydro" could reverse that decline, as happened elsewhere on the fringes of Scotland in the past 34 years.

Colonsay, with North Ronaldsay in Orkney and Out Skerries in Shetland, which are also getting mains next year, is another example of the wisdom of the men who founded the board.

'The bravest men I have ever seen'

From a Staff Reporter

After each time they were rescued, the Union Star crew were told by the RNLI that they were the bravest men I have ever seen. The inquest heard that the Union Star crew were told by the RNLI that they were the bravest men I have ever seen. The inquest heard that the Union Star crew were told by the RNLI that they were the bravest men I have ever seen.

Rape claim decision deferred

From a Staff Reporter

The hearing was completed in the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday of the action by "Mrs X", a Glaswegian woman, who seeks to bring a private prosecution against three teenagers who allegedly raped and assaulted her.

Similar charges were dropped by the public prosecutor, the Lord Advocate, in September last after a medical report said that the alleged victim was unfit to testify at that time.

Lord Emslie, the Lord Justice General, sitting with Lord Cameron and Lord Auld, said yesterday that they would take time to consider their decision on "this most unusual application". A written judgment is expected within the next fortnight.

On the fourth day of the hearing Mr Charles Kemp Davidson, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, continued his answers on behalf of "Mrs X" to the arguments of the defence. He admitted that the case had acquired a "degree of notoriety" and that some of the media coverage had been "very strong". But he contended that a trial would be possible for a jury, if carefully directed by the trial judge, to hear the case.

Lord Emslie said that the difficulty would be to get through to the jury that they would require a sense of duty "beyond what is required of a Scottish jury". The jurors would have to clear their minds of preconceptions.

Mr Kemp Davidson said that if a trial went ahead next May, as seemed possible, then it would take place more than three months after the publication in a Scottish newspaper of an alleged confession by one of the youths. By that time the intense media coverage of January would have become a blur in the minds of potential jurors.

Mr Kemp Davidson argued that the media has preserved the anonymity of those concerned in the case. The concern of journalists had not been that the three alleged assailants were going free but that they were not going to be put on trial.

In the public interest there should be a trial despite the allegation of prejudice by publicity.

It was a fundamental principle of a civilized society, said Mr Kemp Davidson, that if crimes had been committed they should be tried by the law of the land, not by press, television and radio.

Call for clamps to ease parking chaos

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

The Greater London Council and London Transport yesterday supported the police demand to be allowed to use "wheel clamps" to immobilize illegally parked vehicles. The council argued that a seminar on clamps that illegal parking was so widespread in central London that new and more effective means of enforcement were needed.

Mr Paul Moore, vice-chairman of the council's transport committee, quoted GLC estimates that five vehicles out of six were parked illegally in the street, and that one in 50 received a parking ticket and one in 100 paid a fine.

The lack of enforcement was partly due to the shortage of 1,300 wardens. There were 1,300 wardens in London compared with the 4,000 needed to do the job properly, he said.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in November that he wanted the views of the public and interested bodies before deciding whether to legalize clamps. If he does, they will probably be introduced as an experiment in the most congested areas of central London.

A wheel clamp can be fitted to a car in less than two minutes. A driver finding one of his cars would have to pay a fee, probably about £25, at the local police station to have the vehicle released. Supporters of clamps argue that the inconvenience caused is an effective deterrent to illegal parking. The system is widely used in the United States and France.

Dr David Quarumby, managing director of London Transport buses, who favours clamps, said some buses were having to be permanently diverted because of illegal parking. They were losing up to 15 per cent scheduled mileage.

For the Automobile Association, however, Mr Ronald Sharrood said clamps would only prolong the original offence and do little to improve the situation. He wanted enforcement to be made more efficient. If clamps were allowed, he said they should be applied only to persistent offenders, where, for instance, police records showed three unpaid parking tickets for a vehicle.

Nurse 'died from blow to head'

Mr Ronald Smith said yesterday he knew what caused the death of his daughter, a nurse, in Saudi Arabia. She was said to have fallen to her death at a party given by a British surgeon.

He made his claim after being sent a missing page of an autopsy report made in Saudi Arabia. It was forwarded by the Foreign Office to Mr Smith, aged 56, a former police officer, nearly three years after it was written.

Mr Smith was sent the report a year ago. He has consistently claimed it was not complete. The Foreign Office said yesterday it had not noticed at first that the report was incomplete, as the pages were numbered in Arabic and the text read plausibly from page one to page three.

Mr Smith said the missing page "clearly shows Helen died as a result of a brain haemorrhage caused by a blow to the left side of her head. The word 'accident' is in it suggesting an accident."

But Professor Keith Simpson, the senior Home Office pathologist, said: "My view is that this addition does not alter much and should be looked at critically."

The hearing in the High Court on Thursday is to decide whether a Leeds coroner was justified in refusing to hold an inquest into the death of Miss Smith, aged 23, as it happened abroad.

SOLICITOR STOLE £143,000

Michael Campell, a City solicitor who stole £143,000, was jailed for three years and three months at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Campell, aged 49, of Norland Square, Holland Park, north London, admitted charges of theft and deception while acting as the legal adviser and director of a finance company. The thefts included £18,000 belonging to his former wife and their three children, whose shares he sold.

Mr Henry Pownall QC, defending, said Campell had been struck off by the Law Society and made bankrupt with debts of £260,000.

Cl Gordon Ellis, a former Bristol solicitor, was jailed for two years yesterday after he admitted stealing more than £26,000 from clients.

Ellis, aged 33, of Hocker Hill Road, Chesham, used the money to finance housing transactions which mainly benefited his former wife.



Don't miss the first stage of our gastronomic 'Tour de France'

Last week's new-look Sunday Times Magazine left the others standing. Tomorrow, it continues to set the pace... with a fascinating superbly-illustrated series of articles on India. From ancient relics to their latest screen goddesses.

And with the first part of "The Taste of France," a major new cookery series, in LOOK - our new-style magazine within a magazine.

Part One deals with the traditional fare of Normandy and Brittany. It should have you reaching for your garlic-crusher within seconds.

Incidentally, we do expect a pretty heavy demand tomorrow morning. So if you haven't already ordered a copy, we suggest you get on your bike.

If you'll pardon the expression.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The new-look Sunday Times Magazine...with the new 'Look' magazine inside.



Tension mounts on West Bank as Arabs strike

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, March 19

As large sections of the West Bank's 700,000 Palestinians began a 72-hour protest strike today the Israeli military authorities reinforced their latest clampdown by banning the distribution of all three local Arabic newspapers in the occupied region.

The main visible effects of the strike were initially restricted to the two main Christian towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem. In the rest of the West Bank Friday is traditionally treated as a Muslim holiday when most business premises remain closed.

The ban came as tension among the Arabs was rising after yesterday's unprecedented Israeli decision to disband the entire elected Arab council of El-Bireh and replace it by a committee of Israeli military officers who will administer all local affairs.

Israeli troop reinforcements have been drafted into the area in anticipation of violent protests against the move, which is regarded as the beginning of a drive to displace a number of the most radical Palestinian municipalities. Both Israeli and Arab critics have described the take over of El-Bireh town hall as a further step towards Israeli annexation of what the Government calls "Judea and Samaria".

The conditions of the copies of *Al Fajr*, *Al Sha'ab* and *El Kuds* (as well as the weekly, English language edition of *Al Fajr*) took place as the papers were being driven from their printing works in east Jerusalem for sale in West Bank. The papers were still available in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

Israeli military sources claimed that the editions had been seized because they breached strict military censorship regulations. This charge was flatly denied by Arab journalists involved in their production. The Israelis also said that they contained "inflammatory" material.

There were allegations by Palestinian leaders that the move was a deliberate attempt to restrict coverage of the widespread protests caused in the West Bank by the dissolution of El-Bireh council. All three papers have been strongly critical of the new Israeli civilian administration.

One senior *Al Fajr* journalist told me that the paper had written proof that all material in this morning's edition had been approved by the Israeli censor in the normal way. He denied that any attempt had been made to by-pass censorship in reporting on the El-Bireh affair.

The move against the press came only two days after Mr Abba Eban, the opposition Labour spokesman on

Israeli troops remove squatters from Sinai

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 19

Helicopter-borne troops searched the Sinai desert today and seized 35 men, women and children who had spread out in the dunes as part of their campaign to prevent the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the peninsula by April 25.

The military command said the operation was completed in the early afternoon and all 35 squatters were taken by lorry across the former international border. But The Stop the Withdrawal from Sinai movement's headquarters in Yamit said there had been approximately 100 squatters and some were still hiding. They were supplied with food and water for the Sabbath.

The squatters arrived in the early morning darkness at the site of Hamat Adar, an illegal desert settlement twice cleared by the Army and levelled. The squatters pitched tents and assembled tin shacks.

The operation had been

Gandhi hopes high for better ties with Britain

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 19

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, reflected today on the difficult relationship between India and the United States and said she wished it were better. She said, too, that there was no question of any lessening in India's friendship with Russia.

We are trying to have a better relationship with the United States. They have made a global strategy and I do not know what part India plays in that, if any.

"It is up to them. We are not doing anything unfriendly. A lot in the world depends on the attitude of the United States and I would be glad if the relationship were warmer and better."

Mrs Gandhi said friendship with the Soviet Union was valuable and India wanted to retain it. "They have stood by us and helped, especially in development, when no one else wanted to."

"There is no question of lessening friendship with the Soviet Union. We have not allowed them (the Russians) to influence our judgment, actions or policies."

Mrs Gandhi, who is visiting Britain from Sunday in connection with the festival of India, was talking to me in her room in the Parliament building in Delhi. She said she hoped her visit and talks with Mrs Thatcher would

help to create "a more normal and better relationship" with Britain.

Some of the past had been unhappy, but "that is history and we are trying to give contemporary relevance to our relationship. An important part of this is economic cooperation."

She hoped that the exhibitions showing Indian culture, science "and what we are trying to do in our country today" would help to make India better understood.

"India is not a country you can easily ignore. Most people like or dislike it intensely. Its complexities baffle them."

She said that the impressions many people had of

India were drawn from the press, and that visitors from abroad found the Indian reality quite different from the impressions they had gained from newspapers.

The role of the press came up again when she talked of her image. "I am not dismayed by my image in the foreign press. It is so utterly incorrect it misleads, but it doesn't affect us (in India). We are doing what is right."

When she agreed she got on well with Mrs Thatcher, she added with a broad smile: "I get on well with most people, strange as that may seem."

I had been with her in President Reagan in Cancun on a personal basis.

Unrest in Ghana

Rawlings foils coup plot in Army

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 19

Reliable reports reaching here of an abortive coup plot against Ghana's 11-week-old military Government confirm other indications that the regime's hold on power remains fragile. Its success in dealing with the country's economic plight has been meagre.

Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized power in a New Year's eve coup, overthrowing the civilian Government of President Hilla Limann, since when the ruling Provisional National Defence Council has been waging a "holy war" against the country's endemic corruption and has been trying to restore some kind of order to its chaotic finances.

One of the main threats to the defence council has been a lack of cohesion in the armed forces, of whom its power ultimately rests. It is therefore particularly ominous that the recent coup plot should have been discovered in the armed forces.

A reliable source told *The Times* that the plot was discovered in Accra on March 4, when an Army captain was seen taking part in a rehearsal for a concert to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence, due to be held two days later, and the Ghanaian security authorities, mindful of how President Sedat of Egypt was assassinated during a military parade, took him in for questioning. Under interrogation the officer apparently confessed, implicating four other officers and eight other soldiers, the source said.

When the parade was held it was noted that Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings was not in his usual flamboyant self. Instead of arriving at the parade in full view of the public, standing on top of an armoured car, as is his wont, he was in the back of the vehicle and only emerged, surrounded by heavily armed bodyguards, at the end of the parade ground.

Qualified observers noted that he appeared to be wearing a flak jacket under his tunic and that throughout the ceremony he was surrounded by moving bodyguards which would have made it very difficult for any sniper to get a sight on him. Heavily armed guards stood

around him, and the parade was held in a more subdued atmosphere than usual.

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Kenya bans play by left-wing novelist

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, March 19

Kenya's leading novelist, Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o, is protesting strongly here about the refusal of the Kenyan authorities to approve a performance of his latest play, *Maitu Njũgũ* (Mother tell it to me), which contrasts the cruelties and discriminations of pre-independent Kenya with present-day problems of the country's peasants.

Ngũgĩ wrote the play in his native Kikuyu language, and it was to have been performed by a rural theatre cooperative, the Kamirithu group, from the Limuru area, near Nairobi. But the group's plan to present it at the National Theatre in Nairobi failed when the application for a permit brought no response, although they never received a formal rejection.

The issue has aroused great interest here. Ngũgĩ is the author of several novels, including *Petals of Blood*, *Weep Not Child* and *The River Between*. He was associate Professor of Literature at Nairobi University until he was detained, and he was released on the orders of President Daniel arap Moi after the death of President Kenyatta in 1978. He then applied for reinstatement at the university, but was unsuccessful.

The new play appears to have angered officials, probably because it is regarded as too left-wing in its ideas. Ngũgĩ is a socialist, has visited the Soviet Union, and has made no secret of his dislike of Kenya's capitalist policies, which, he says, have resulted in the exploitation of the peasants.

The play also appears to some of its critics to be seditious — in the sense that it is likely to cause hatred between Africans and whites by exaggerating the alleged indignities of a forced labour system 50 years ago, and by portraying Africans as being raped and crucified in their struggle for freedom.

The play is to a large extent allegorical, and would be unlikely to offend a sophisticated audience, but the authorities seem to fear its impact on the unsophisticated.

However, the official opposition has now gone further than banning one play, and the local chief has ordered the Kamirithu group to disband. Local police have dismantled the group's theatre, an open-air affair with simple seats for several hundred spectators, surrounded by a bamboo fence.

The group had been invited to travel to Zimbabwe to present the play there, but they are unlikely to be issued with passports. The Minister for Culture has declined to letters seeking approval for the Zimbabwe trip, Ngũgĩ says.

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Workers grill the Pope

From Christopher Thomas, Miami, March 19

Crone refugee camp is an ugly yellow-brick structure that stands inconspicuously alone amid thousands of acres of tomato fields west of Miami, Florida.

Within its towering perimeter nearly 600 of the 2,100 Haitian refugees imprisoned in the United States spend endless, tedious days watching television programmes they cannot understand and wondering what the future holds.

America is acutely embarrassed by Crone, yet nobody seems to know what to do with it. Some see it as a human rights scandal. Others regard it as a chilling example of what could happen on a large scale if the United States had a huge influx of refugees, as well it might if the Central American turmoil worsens.

The Haitian boat people fled from the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier, a regime that Washington says is not guilty of human rights violations. They arrived for the most part in leaky wooden boats. Many of them have been held for nine to 10 months.

Normally they could expect to be processed by the Department of Immigration and quickly released to relatives or others pending an immigration hearing. Since mid-1981 that has all changed.

The Reagan administration ordered illegal immigrants, not just Haitians, to be detained until their request to enter the United States could be heard. The Haitians were the first victims of the policy, and all those who were caught are now in the Crone or other camps and prisons in Puerto Rico, New York, Kentucky and Texas.

Intensive "search and return" operations were ordered on the high seas by President Reagan to stop the boat people coming, and they worked. The problem now is what to do with those who made it.

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Florida lawyers file suit to free Haiti refugees

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Perhaps all is not lost!
Yours etc,
PETER DAVIDSON,
Darwin College,
The University,
Canterbury,
Kent.
March 18.

Saturday Review

When he was thirteen, in the 1940s, Philip Oakes was expelled from the Bluecoat School in Wolverhampton after naming the headmaster as an embezzler. He was sent in disgrace to a Methodist run Children's Homes school in Lancashire. "Plans had been made, letters had been exchanged, my future had been decided without anyone troubling to ask what I felt about the matter. I was hurt and I was infuriated."

The next morning I awoke to find someone kicking the foot of my bed. I looked up apprehensively and saw a squat, sturdy man with bright blue eyes standing over me. He wore a striped flannel shirt secured at the neck by a collar stud and a black waistcoat traversed by a gold watch chain. His arms were folded and his right hand supported the bowl of a pipe from which a blue thread of tobacco smoke climbed towards the ceiling. His posture implied that he had been waiting there for some time and that his patience was wearing thin. "All right," he said, "let's be having you. Time to rise and shine."

His name, I recalled, was Mr King. I had met him and his wife the previous evening when Mr Buller had steered me along the rutted road and through the front gate of Mossop House. "Mr King is in charge here," he said. "He's what we call the Labour Master. He makes sure the important jobs get done."

It was a flattering but not, as I discovered later, a wholly accurate description of Mr King's occupation. As Labour Master he was in charge of the casual work force of boys who had left school but had not yet been apprenticed to a regular trade. The jobs for which they could eventually train were limited to those essential to the running of the branch, but competition was fierce. There was a farm, a bakery, a boot-repairer, a smithy (which also offered a grounding in electrical repairs) and the branch stores. Only a few boys were accepted as apprentices. The rest joined Mr King's labour squad which was known as the Shop. They were responsible for sweeping the roads, moving furniture, spreading manure, mending walls, chopping firewood, clearing fields of sunken stones and laying the drains which would make them fit for farming. Everyone served time on the Shop. Older boys who were still at school were required to donate their Saturday mornings to community service. Juniors were pressed-ganged when rain threatened the hay crop or potatoes were to be planted or picked. There was no pretence that there was dignity in the labour. The work was there to be done and the chief lay in doing as little of it as possible. I learned this in the months to come. I also came to appreciate the fathomless sloth that lay behind Mr King's busy facade. But my first impressions were very different.

As he stood by my bed, I studied his face, pricked by pores as deep as dimples. He was going bald and his scalp showed pallidly between the watered strips of hair that spanned his head, linking ear to ear as if he was wearing headphones. He had a large but firm belly and trim dancer's feet. His arms were furrowed with fine, almost invisible hair and they were as thick as the legs of pork which Mr James, our butcher at home, attacked so fiercely with his chopper. He seemed to be lost in thought, but without warning he gripped the edge of my bed, straightened his arms and tipped me to the floor. Deliberately he took the pipe from his mouth.

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In the spring, bit by bit, day by day, as the nights lengthened and the weather brightened, and as the gardens are sown and planted, the village comes to obvious life again, and people come out into the open, like animals from their winter retreats. People walk their dogs without being too brisk about it now, and take a stroll to the pub, and do their gardens, or else simply stand, in the doorway that lets on to the lane, at the gate, by the wall, watching to see who goes by, giving good day, catching up on the news. Mrs Miggs takes her upright chair, with the old, round knitted cushion and her crochets, and sits in the porch, and Mr Harrow, who is very old, very lame, opens his window wide and sits at it hour after hour, and the canary sits beside him in its cage. Mrs Miggs was married sixty-two years ago, in Barley Church, from the Grange where she was then in

"When I say move, lad, move." I pulled on my clothes and followed the rest of the pack downstairs into the dining room: the chairs were stacked on the tables and most of the boys were on their hands and knees, hunched like jockeys, and scooting backwards in bursts of furious energy as if they were running a race in reverse. Each of them was kneeling on a felt pad, clutching a bundle of rags with which he burnished the floorboards. Each boy made several runs up and down his individual strip, applying polish from a large tin half-filled with orange wax and rubbing it off so fiercely that the oak planks glittered beneath his hands. I smelled pipe smoke behind me and turned to see Mr King leaning against the door, his legs elegantly crossed beneath his snug belly, his arms folded as before. "We have no gentlemen here," he said, apparently addressing no one in particular. "There's only working lads in this house."

A small boy with red hair so severely cropped that it looked like rash showed me a locker where the rags and polish were kept. "Help yourself," he said.

I found a rag and went to work. Mr King sauntered over to watch me and when I glanced up I saw his belly looming over me like a thunder cloud. He puffed on his pipe. "Don't use so much polish. Just dab it on the floor and work it in. It's elbow grease that counts."

I tried to follow his instructions but my polishing rag was glazed with wax and left smears on the yellow boards. "Rub harder," said Mr King.

Mr heart pounded in my chest and sweat ran into my eyes. I could see myself shunting up and down my strip of floor until my hands wore holes in the rag. I examined the surface for smears and when I found none I looked up hopefully. Mr King pointed with the glossy toe of his shoe. "What's that?"

"A stain," I said. "It's in the wood."

"Is it now?" He reached down to the offending spot and scooped up a thin rind of grease on his fingernail.

"I'm sorry," I said.

"It's no good being sorry. Learn to do it right."

I bent my back and polished the strip again. "We've tamed tigers here," said Mr King.

"I beg your pardon."

"We've tamed worse than you."

He pointed to a regimental badge tattooed on his right forearm. "Ten years light-heavyweight champion of the British Army in India," he said as if he was reciting his name and number. "Undefeated. Never too be counted."

I was properly impressed. "We did boxing at my last school."

"Would you take me on then?" demanded Mr King.

"Not likely."

Mr King unflexed his arm and put his pipe back into his mouth. "Right you are. Do as you're told. Pull your weight and don't get above yourself."

It was more than a pep talk, I realized. Mr King was defining limits, warning me how I might

transgress and advising me that I was under observation. Evidently I was considered a hard case, and I remembered my mother and my uncle filling in forms which they hid when I came into the room and which I had subsequently failed to intercept. In their eagerness to feed the archives they had provided me with a reputation which it would have been perilous to live up to. I resolved there and then never to come into direct conflict with Mr King.

He walked up and down my strip of the floor. "That's more like it. Now go and get washed. Shirt off and don't forget to do behind your ears."

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Sister Aggie had a flushed and fleshy face and small eyes which were miniaturized still further by the thick lenses of her spectacles. Her hair straggled from a loose bun and she had a faint but perceptible moustache. After we had washed and dried ourselves we presented ourselves for her inspection, baring our wrists and necks to show they were no tiddlers. She pored over our flesh as if searching for a text which would miraculously surface the longer she looked, but she avoided touching us except for the very smallest boys. She seemed to be in a flux of embarrassment and irritation, tossing her head so that her glasses glinted and her hair spilled over her collar. When it was my turn she peered so closely that I felt her breath graze my naked back. "Your neck's dirty," she announced.

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Dishonourable schoolboy

by Philip Oakes

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transgress and advising me that I was under observation. Evidently I was considered a hard case, and I remembered my mother and my uncle filling in forms which they hid when I came into the room and which I had subsequently failed to intercept. In their eagerness to feed the archives they had provided me with a reputation which it would have been perilous to live up to. I resolved there and then never to come into direct conflict with Mr King.

He walked up and down my strip of the floor. "That's more like it. Now go and get washed. Shirt off and don't forget to do behind your ears."

In the washroom a line of smaller boys filed past a woman wearing a blue silk dress with a starched white collar. Her name was Sister Aggie and with Mr and Mrs King she shared the running of Mossop House. As I already knew from the pamphlets with which my mother had been supplied, the homes were largely financed by Methodist chapels and organizations. There were 30 branches situated all over the country. There was an average of 10 houses to a branch and each of them was staffed by women known as Sisters whose job was to act as house mother to small family units of boys or girls. It was not a religious order, which they belonged, but their

uniforms and titles somehow set them apart. They were like nuns or wardresses; agents of the institution. Usually two of the Sisters were responsible for the management of a house but Mossop, as I had already been told, was where they tamed tigers. It was where the hard cases were subjected to the proper discipline and Mr King was the disciplinarian.

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Dwellers All in Time and Space: A Memory of the 1940s is the second volume of autobiography by Philip Oakes and followed the highly acclaimed *From Middle England: A Memory of the 1930s*. He has written four novels, among them *Experiment at Proto* and *A Cast of Thousands*, and three volumes of poetry. An anthology of his poems, drawn from those collections, will be published by Andre Deutsch in August. A journalist and broadcaster, Philip Oakes was the film critic of *The Evening Standard* and *The Sunday Telegraph* before becoming a columnist on *The Sunday Times*.



it was medicine which she was forcing herself to drink. The previous evening when I had been brought to the house by Mr Buller we had been shown into the sitting room where Mrs King sat on a low nursing chair, an embroidery frame in her lap. Mr Buller traced the design with his finger. "Roses again, I see," he said.

"The wife's very fond of roses," said Mr King.

Tapestries draped over the backs of two easy chairs confirmed his observation. They swarmed with red roses and yellow roses. There were even one or two blue roses.

"Does your mother do embroidery?" Mrs King asked me.

"She can't. She gets headaches."

Mrs King threaded a needle with green silk and drew it through the canvas. A leaf budded beneath her hand and she smiled sympathetically. "Your mother misses a great deal. You must be a good boy for her sake."

"And for his own," said Mr Buller. "He must make his mind up about that. No more wasted opportunities." He clapped me on the back. "Go and make yourself known to the other boys."

I did as I was told. They sat in a semi-circle around a small fire in the next room and I noticed that although several of them were bigger and I presumed older than me, all but one wore short trousers. The firelight bounced off their bare knees. "She'll have them off you," said a boy whose hair stood up from his head in Vaseline quills.

"She'll have what off me?"

"Them." He plucked my trouser-leg. "Only the biggest lads wear longies here."

"My mother bought these," I said.

They snickered silently at the fire as if I had said something amusing. "I'm telling you," said the boy with spiky hair. "You'll be back in short pants tomorrow."

"Happen he will and happen he won't," said another boy. He wore a school blazer with a badge on the

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Travel: edited by Shona Crawford Poole

High summer in Crete Beware the wicked month of August

At 10 in the morning it was 90 in the shade and the shrill of cicadas was like walking under the power lines of the national grid. There was a shimmering, Cretan traffic snarl up at the gates of Knossos and a queue to get in. Guides touted 150 drachma tours, sorting the tourists into national groups at 50 practised paces.

A stocky lady guide called 10 English speakers. Her command of our tongue was, to be kind, limited. Though whether it was the lady herself or the language which condemned the party to its inferior status was a puzzle I could not solve in the competitive press of groups with louder guides. What with the heat and through it was hard going to focus on Minoan civilization. August was clearly not an ideal month to visit the largest and most southerly of the Greek islands.

The museum of the bustling seaport capital Heraklion houses art treasures from the nearby Knossos excavations,

and both are likely to be compulsory pilgrimages for most visitors to Crete. But the big city and its string of seaside suburbs are not the most appealing base for a high summer holiday.

Aghios Nikolaos, is nearer what many people have in mind when they dream of Greek islands. Busting tavernas line the quays. Fishing boats bob photographically on turquoise water and small boys dive dramatically from cliffs round the harbour in a whooping day-long cabaret.

It is also possible to enjoy the natural splendours of Crete in a cocoon of unnaturally exclusive luxury. For as well as small towns and villages like Aghios Nikolaos and Kania, which have prospered on tourist spending, there are plush new developments like the Elounda Beach Hotel.

More a self-contained resort than an hotel, Elounda Beach pamperers its guests shamelessly. Pretty stone cottages, blessedly air conditioned, are linked to the

main hotel building by paths lined with oleanders. Room service extends to the secluded sun terraces of these waterfront bungalows, from which dawn and sunset may be romantically viewed. Topless bathing is forbidden on the private beach and in the pool area - nowadays unusual restriction.

For those who like local colour in measured doses there is a taverna in the grounds. The piano player's repertoire, like the menu, is international. And, of course, there is a disco, plush, pulsating, and sensibly positioned by the security gate on the far side of the car park.

If our modest hire car looked very small beside the big saloons lined up in the car park at Elounda, it seemed quite at home in the narrow streets of Aghia Galini on the less developed southern coast of Crete.

On the drive south the narrow road through parched mountain landscapes opens startlingly on to the green

Lassithi Plateau. Rugged windmills stand guard on the watershed pass. Tattered sails thrack in the breeze and there are more windmills as far as the eye can see. Embroidered linen and crocheted work, hand made by local womenfolk, and sometimes whole families, hangs from almost every house in Tzermiado.

We asked a young woman sewing at the door of her shop if we might photograph one of the old ladies in black with her display of white tablecloths and bedspreads. She smiled at the camera, but brought her mother to pose for the camera. The nearby ancient ruins were not relatives, she explained.

I would have liked to linger in Tzermiado, but Aghia Galini called. An unspoiled fishing village is a description of it still found in guidebooks. I wonder if the authors have been there lately. Haphazard new buildings look pretty enough from the harbour. But the view from hotel balconies is a less

attractive vista of washing and water tanks.

Sun, sea and reasonable prices attract throngs of young holidaymakers who pack the cramped stony beaches. Tavernas throb with pop music far into the night and the atmosphere is distinctly predatory.

Too many holidaymakers in any one place distort the local atmosphere they have travelled so far to experience. Plainly a great many people were hugely enjoying Crete in August, but I would like to return in spring.

Olympic Holidays offers a wide selection of holidays on Crete with direct flights to Iraklion. Self-catering apartment holidays based in Aghios Nikolaos cost from £187 for two weeks in low season.

A double bungalow on the waterfront at the Elounda Beach Hotel, half board in the high season (May 15 to October 31), costs about £35 a day.



Day's end for an Heraklion street photographer

Surcharges/Derek Harris Long haul hikes

The good news about fuel surcharges on package holidays is that on short-haul holidays, for example to the Mediterranean, those late summer's brochures were calculated in July last year, and based on estimates of how currencies will vary in value in relationship to each other. There is, for instance, a currency factor in this summer's United States, Caribbean and Mexican holidays of increases of between 2.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent.

But this pales beside the effect of the airlines raising their prices. The package tour industry tends to discuss this in terms of a fuel surcharge. This has led to do with it this time round but the post-Laker situation does have to be faced.

It affects all holiday operators using scheduled airlines as carriers. Ostensibly a Miami holiday could be facing a 46 per cent surcharge, a Los Angeles holiday 18.3 per cent, and in Honolulu - the lowest increase - an 11.03 per cent surcharge.

These figures are from Thomson Holidays which guarantees no more than a 10 per cent surcharge on brochure prices. In theory the package operator with such a guarantee foots the bill for the difference.

for Italian holidays, but lower, on for instance, North African and Malta Breaks.

Currency surcharging arises because prices in this summer's brochures were calculated in July last year, and based on estimates of how currencies will vary in value in relationship to each other. There is, for instance, a currency factor in this summer's United States, Caribbean and Mexican holidays of increases of between 2.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent.

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In fact it would be surprising if Thomson and other key operators have not been able to negotiate airline arrangements to reduce such a liability. Thomas Cook, like some other operators, if gives customers the chance to opt out with a money back deal if surcharges go over 10 per cent. Thomas Cook which, like Thomson, had been using Laker as a carrier to some destinations, has renegotiated deals with airlines and expects to keep almost all the surcharges within the 10 per cent. What such companies always have to take into account is consequential losses if, when the surcharge goes over 10 per cent are so many cancellations that booked facilities like coaches also have to be cancelled.

With the trend strengthening towards late booking for many holidays it looks like as if early booking this season has had its virtues where, as with big transatlantic operators like Jetset, there is a no-surcharge guarantee if holidays are paid in advance.

Holiday discount news

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Departures
SKIING					
St Lary, France	7 s/c	Thomson	£64	£30	Mar 27, 8 Luton
Formigal, Spain	7 s/c	Thomson	£73	£30	Mar 27 Luton
Seefeld, Austria	7/14 h/b	Swire	£134/219	£50	Apr 4, 11
Caspoggio, Italy	7/14 i/b	Swire	£84/136	£50	Mar 27, 8 Manchester
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14 i/b	Swire	£106/164	£50	Mar 27, 8 Manchester
Zermatt, Switzerland	7 s/c	Ski West	£110	£45	Mar 27
Courmayeur, Italy	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£104/210	£50/85	Mar 27
Verbier, Switzerland	7 i/b	Ski West	£129	£76	Mar 27
Courchevel, France	7/14 i/b	Ski West	£169/209	£70/130	Apr 3
La Plagne, France	7/14 s/c	Ski West	£129/163	£20/40	Apr 10
Val d'Isere, France	7/14 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£189/297	£50	Mar 27 & Apr 3
Meribel, France	7/14 i/b	Club Mark Warner	£195/299	£50	Mar 27 & Apr 3
Val d'Isere	7 i/b	Ski MacG	£209	£29/39	Mar 27
Verbier	7 i/b	Ski MacG	£209	£29/39	Mar 27
Verbier	7/14 s/c	Ski Sunburst	£135/205	£41/57	Apr 3
Meribel	7/14 s/c	Ski Sunburst	£140/210	£34/44	Apr 3
St Anton, Austria	14 i/b	Small World*	£209	£30	Mar 28
Pontresina, Switzerland	14 i/b	Small World	£199	£50	Apr 4
WINTER SUN					
Biza	7/14 s/c	Silver	£99	£44	May 2, 9, 16 & 23
Los Palmas	7/14 s/c	Silver	£129	£52	May 3, 10, 17 & 24
Yugoslavia	14 i/b	Portland*	£149	£50	Apr 6
Costa Brava	14 i/b	Portland	£129	£50	Apr 6
Greece	7 h/b	Thomson	£169	£20	Apr 14, 21 Newcastle
Gambia	14 h/b	Thomson	£350	£89	Apr 1, 8, 15, Luton
Majorca	7 h/b	Thomson	£125	£30	Apr 16, 18, 23, Luton
Madeira	14 h/b	Ellerman	£289	£59	Mar 24, 31, Glasgow
Peloponnes, Greece	7/14 s/c	Timeway	£121/142	£33	Apr 16, 23, 30 & May 7

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. * May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111 or 061-228 1188. Small World 01-240 3233.

Horizon announced an extension of its no-surcharge guarantee on summer holidays this week. There will be no surcharges on Horizon holidays with departures on or between March 26 and June 30. In addition to the winter sports discounts mentioned in this week's table, Neilson is reducing prices on selected holidays by up to £50. The holiday maker chooses the board arrangement, departure date and airport, and the destination country - Austria or France - and the tour operator allocates the resort and accommodation. S.C.P.

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When adrift, just build an ark

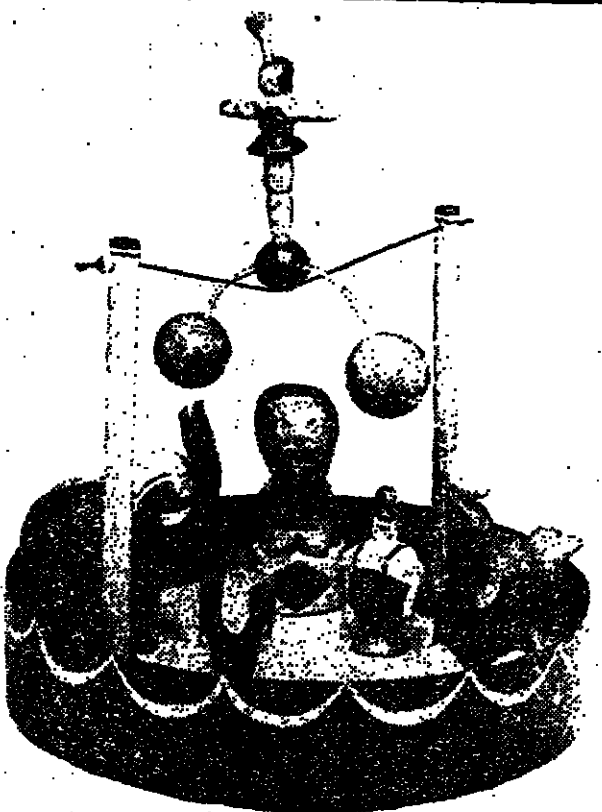
If you found yourself in Cornwall, unemployed and with nothing more than the clothes you stood up in, what would you do? When David Plagerson faced that problem five years ago his survival instinct took a fairly well-documented turn — he promptly set about building an ark.

It was not the full-size sort that in times of flood might get stuck on Porlock Hill but a hand-carved wood model, complete with Mr and Mrs Noah and 36 pairs of animals. Since then the Plagerson arks have become so collectable that 60 per cent of his output is exported to America, and examples have been bought by the British Green Toy Museum and by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

Now new hand-made toys are being added to the range. There is a nativity set of crib, stable and 10 characters and a model village of 25 painted, bearded figures and roads which can be laid out in many permutations. It is based on the Cornish landscape and has six typical buildings, including a farm, pub and church.

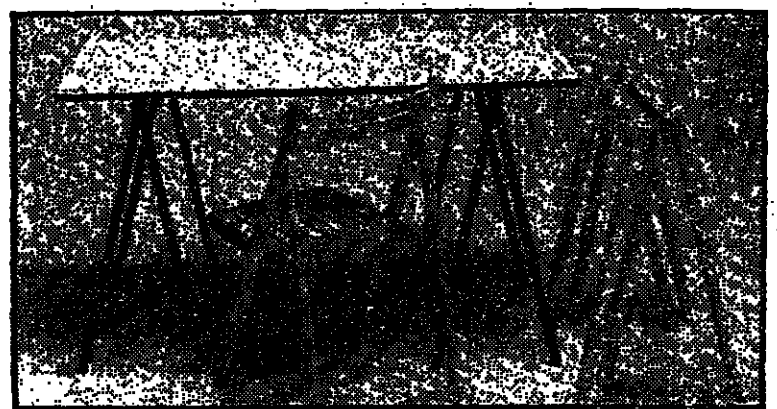
My pick of the painted toys would be a circus. The round box forms twin rings, one fitted with a high wire, and there are two acrobats, a ringmaster, clown, two lions, an elephant, seal, horse and two poodles.

Handwork of this quality — each piece is beautifully modelled and painted — cannot be cheap. The painted ark takes a week to complete and costs from £220 to £375 according to the number of animals. The village is £89, nativity set £112, circus £127. There is also an amusing mechanical cat and mouse — the cat



Top: hand carved unpainted Noah's ark animals from a large selection at £2.25 each. By David Plagerson.

Right: hand carved and painted circus by David Plagerson, £127 (not all pieces shown).



From the Basics collection, table top on white with blue edge banding. £9.95 with blue metal trawlers, £19.50 a pair; pine trawlers £19.95 a pair, folding chair, £5.95. All front branches of Habitat from March 27.

First-time functional

For the last five years or so, Habitat customers have been getting younger. The first faithful of the late 1960s have grown up and the new young home makers cannot find what they want at prices they can afford. So Habitat this week launched Basics.

This is a collection of all the essentials in a first home and the emphasis is very much on pared-down prices, achieved by combining for the first time the buying power of Habitat's 33 British stores with their 15 French ones.

Designers, instead of concentrating on specialized items such as china or linen, have been commissioned to create ideas across a whole range of goods, all bearing the Basics identity and costing no more than basic prices.

The result is a range of furniture, fabrics, lighting, wallpaper, tableware and bedding which should be affordable even by first time flat sharers. It will be shown in Habitat stores from next Saturday and will be promoted for two months as a collection. After that, items will be dispersed to their appropriate departments, but will still bear a distinctive Basics red, white and blue label so that they will be easy for bargain-hunters to spot.

There will be sofa beds at £199, occasional chairs with tubular frames and padded canvas covers at £25, ceramic table lamps with shades at £7.95, kitchen units from £22.50 for a single wall unit, striped enameled steel pans from £3.95, wine glasses 99p each, white porcelain dinner plates at £1.25 each and smart white handled cutlery at £5.99 for a seven-piece table setting.

Fabric wallpaper and blinds are in fresh, bright colours — blue, red, green and a smiling, daffodil yellow — and there are some lightweight, machine washable duvets in blue and yellow which need no extra covers, £21.95 single.

Prices are guaranteed for five months and a coloured leaflet will be available free from Habitat stores from next Saturday or can be obtained by post from Habitat Designs Ltd, Box 2, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9DQ, enclosing a sae.

It is patently clear that Longfellow had short feet. He would certainly not have gone on about leaving footprints on the sand of time if he had been galumphing about in size 12 wellies. People — particularly women — with big feet cover their tracks whenever possible, having been made to feel bizarre since childhood and to pay over the odds for barge-shaped boots since they grew up.

Hence the success of Crispins, which opened at 5 Chiltern Street, London W1, in 1978, branched out to Manchester in 1980 and is planning to expand to larger premises in London this spring, all specializing in beautiful shoes in long fittings. Note the "long" — it sounds so much more elegant than "big" — all part of the service provided by Dawne Gutteridge who, as a wearer of size 9, knows how sensitive people can be about their feet.

"I've had customers in tears about shoes," she says. "They have been sent to the men's department and looked on as some kind of freak just because they aren't average fittings. I know how desperate they feel. When I first started I went to Italy looking for sizes 4½ and 42 — an English 8½ and 9. They thought I had translated the numbers incorrectly, fell about laughing and offered to sell me the boxes to wear!"

It was not easy to convince manufacturers that large sizes, up to 11, could be made in the sort of styles that look stylish on small feet. Dawne Gutteridge, having been a designer of children's clothes, admits that if she had known more about the shoe trade she might have allowed herself to be persuaded that what she wanted was impossible.

But she persevered and she now has manufacturers in Italy, Spain, Finland, France and

America making specially for her. There are a few English styles and she would like to buy more, but makers here have not been particularly co-operative, despite the fact that she is now experienced enough to know at a glance whether a sample size 4 will translate successfully into 8 or 9 without looking like a boat. Her ranges are from sizes 7 to 11 and include four fittings, AAA

For long, narrow feet, three shoes designed exclusively for Crispins: 1) Right: Open-toe shoe with pom pom in blue or sand kid, sizes 8 to 11, B fittings, £49.95; 2) Left: Open-toe shoe with ankle strap in silver grey or sand kid, sizes 8 to 11, B fittings, £35.95; 3) Right: Open-toe court with ankle ties, on bronze or gummetal kid, sizes 7 to 10, AA fittings, £35.50.



Left: For small, broad feet, suede sandals in burgundy or black with matching patent straps, or in all cream leather. Sizes 13 to 2½, C fittings, 3in heel, £24.50 from the Small and Tall shoe shop.

to C, and although not all fittings are available in all sizes, there is a large selection of styles. Even Americans who have a good range of large sizes and fittings are finding that Crispins has a better design selection than they can find at home.

Prices are in the middle to upper categories — £20 to £60 in the fashion ranges, which include mostly lowish but elegantly

shaped heels for tall women, but also some high-heeled styles, all in fine calf, kid, suede or patent. There is also a Mini Prix range for young customers — £14 to £30 for sandals, espadrilles and some court shoes. Not, yet, shoes for men.

To complete the picture Crispins stock a selection of extra-long tights, over the knee socks at £2.25 in lots and colours and extra-length kid gloves at about £14. Handbags are available to match the shoes from £30.

Another shop specializing in unusual sizes, at both ends of the scale, is the Small and Tall shoe shop, 71 York Street, W1, where tall girls can find sizes 8½ to 11 in fittings AAA to D from £13.50 to £37.95 and small ones have a choice of sizes 13 to 2½, fittings B to E from £18.95 to £36.50. Again not all styles are available in all fittings.

Most of these are British-made in leather with resin soles and some styles can be made in special colours to order at an extra cost of £3 a pair. Delivery is three to four weeks.

Small and Tall offer the unusual service of supplying shoes by mail order. (Telephone 01-723 5321.) They have a brochure for each size range and shoes are sent on approval and may be changed until the exact size and fitting suits the customer. No extra p & p is charged, but a service charge is made on goods returned: £1 on shoes, £1.50 on boots and £5 on sandals.

So whether awkward-to-fit customers visit Crispins in Chiltern Street or Royal Exchange, Manchester, or buy personally or by mail through Small and Tall, at least they will not need to commit the unspeakable crime of referring to their aching feet. As a suave character said in a play I saw years ago, "To say 'my foot hurts' is intriguing. To say 'my feet hurt' is simply sordid."

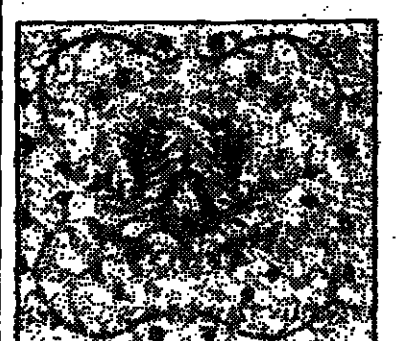
The loose smock shape has already been made a right royal fashion for mothers to be, but it is a comfortable style in hot weather for anyone. Julian Akers Douglas makes attractive traditional smocks in natural calico with cream or stone brown smocking in all sizes for children's, aged 4 to 6 at £25 to adults; small, medium and large at £55 (£22 p&p on all sizes). She will also make special sizes to order — her largest was for a man with a 46in chest and took three weeks to complete the smocking. Short, thigh lengths also available from Barham Farmhouse, East Hoothly, Lewes, Sussex, telephone Holland 397.

Prints for pleasure

Collectors of prints who joined the Limited Edition Club when I reported its formation last September are finding their membership is paying dividends. The first of items for sale now includes some famous names — prints at prices much lower than their current market value.

The club was formed to provide an outlet for those who had difficulty in selling their limited editions at a reasonable price. For a £12 fee, members receive a regular For Sale and Wanted lists and are able to advertise in them without further charge.

The current list offers Helen Bradley's Picnic at £100 and Russell Flint's Waves at £175. The same editions are in a highly regarded print retailer's current list at £525 and £650. The club organizers do not pretend that such bargains crop up all the time, but if you want to have the opportunity to exercise your keen eyes, write for a membership form to Limited Edition Club, P.O. Box 17, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4BW.



William Morris's artichoke design is adapted from the original at the Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and outlined on linen with Woolsol, 15in square, £19.75 plus 70p p&p.

Modern madness

Those who associate the Royal School of Needlework only with traditional embroidery should take a look at their first colour catalogue, just produced. It includes many traditional designs, like the one above, ranging across the centuries from Elizabethan to Edwardian times, but its most recent ones represent a particular form of madness which has boomed in recent years — astrology.

The 12 signs are hand-painted on canvas and each is 14 in square at £22.50 (70p p&p). Also in the modern range is a charming wedding sampler (worked from a chart, not printed on the canvas) at £8.50 (50p p&p) and a bold piece of white canvas 7½ in x 16 in, which would make an attractive decoration for a child's room, £10.75 (60p p&p).

The catalogue is available by post from the Royal School of Needlework, 25 Princes Gate, SW7 for £1. They also have a shop which sells materials and equipment for all types of embroidery which they will post to any part of the world; send 40p for a price list of all the items.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Biting back at the frost

Hardly a garden has escaped some damage by the severe frosts, but it is far too soon to assume that plants which look beyond all hope of survival are actually dead. Wait until June, at the earliest, before removing trees and shrubs and other plants. They may well have survived.

This winter has not really been comparable with that of 1962-63. I fear it has caused more severe and fatal damage because although the frosts arrived earlier, in November, the really severe frosts did not come until early in 1963, by which time there was deep snow cover.

Last year the frosts in December and January were unprecedentedly vicious and there was limited snow cover; we had 72 hours of near zero Fahrenheit temperatures. In 1962 the plants had longer to harden their growth and

were better able to survive the very low temperatures. We wait and hope.

Something I did not know last year is that some types of bulbs are more susceptible to prolonged and severe frosts than others. Hyacinths are easily ruined, tulips and daffodils much less so as a rule, and of course hardly ever in the open ground; only in exceptionally severe winters or they have not been planted deeply enough.

I had not come across this problem before, but last autumn, as we have done for years, we planted bulbs in about a dozen containers; stone vases, tubs and the like. The hyacinth and the daffodil bulbs were just reduced to slimy pulp but the tulips and muscari seem to have survived unscathed. Naturally, bulbs perched above ground in tubs or other containers are more vulnerable to frost than those in the open ground. Frosts have to be more severe and last much longer to affect bulbs in beds or borders.

We have a splendidly handsome specimen of the evergreen *Eucryphia nymansensis* about 12 feet high which last year was covered with its white flowers. It looks very dead, its leaves like brown paper. If it is dead, we thought, maybe it would make a wonderful support for a clematis or a honeysuckle, but our scientific friends are violently opposed to the retention and such use of dead trees. They can apparently be hosts to honey fungus, coral spot, silver leaf and goodness

knows what other diseases, as well as providing a refuge for overwintering pests. So if it is dead it will have to go, as will a cannella tree and a 10ft bay tree which is as brown as a berry.

Many herbaceous plants, mainly young ones raised from seed, or plants divided and planted in the autumn, I fear may have been lost. Rather than rush to replace them now, before we can be really sure that they are dead, it may be worthwhile raising a few batches of half hardy annuals, or sowing some hardy annuals.

As I reported in 1980, Unwins offered for the first time their First Early onion sets for planting in the autumn. This is an early maturing onion, giving a high yield and resistant to bolting. It is ready to harvest much earlier than onions raised from seed or from spring planted onion sets. We planted a batch last autumn and feared greatly for them when the December frosts set in but they have survived apparently without turning a hair. Unwins tell us that the hardness of these sets have been received from many parts of the country and they will replace the Japanese onion seed varieties which we have sown in the autumn for an early crop.

They certainly will for me: 20 years ago I gave up growing onions from seed sown in spring in favour of onion sets planted in March or early April.

The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

Red, or pink alert

To specify an odd or unusual ingredient in any recipe which appears in a newspaper is to invite letters from frustrated readers. These lament the unavailability of plain as well as fancy foodstuffs in sometimes surprising places and ask for advice on suitable alternatives. So it may come as a relief that there is one fashionable spice which is now seems it would be wise to shun.

Red peppercorns, also called pink peppercorns, are described as a "symbolic spice of nouvelle cuisine" in the latest edition of the journal *Petits Propos Culinaires*. It reports that the US Food and Drug Administration has suspended imports of red peppercorns following tests which confirmed health risks revealed by researchers.

In an article entitled "Red peppercorns — what they really are", Mrs Alexandra Hicks asks how a spice can become so popular "and cause such excitement among gourmets and still remain properly identified".

Red peppercorns she says are the berries of the shrub *Schinus molle* (also known as *Schinus molle*), a species indigenous to Brazil where it is known as *Arrozeira*. Other common names for it are Brazilian pepper tree, Christmas berry and Florida holly.

Oddly, though this same shrub is common enough in Florida to be rated a pest, the red peppercorns used by American and European cooks come, we are told from the French island of

reunion because the strength of flavour can vary from pleasantly aromatic to tearfully hot.

Like their red or pink namesakes, green peppercorns too have been fashionable in recent years and make an attractive addition to the taste and appearance of many terrines.

The following recipe for a pork and green pepper terrine also includes the idea of baking the pâté with a split pig's trotter on top to make an instant aspic. If a trotter is hard to find, or the idea is unappealing, the terrine can be baked without it and aspic added later, or not at all.

Very coarsely ground black or white pepper may be substituted for the green peppercorns, in which case the quantity should be reduced.

Pork and green peppercorn terrine
Makes about 1kg (2½ lb)
450g (1 lb) pig's liver
450g (1 lb) fat belly of pork
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
55g (2 oz) shallot or onion, finely chopped
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon whole green peppercorns
225g (8 oz) thinly sliced pork back fat or green streaky bacon
1 pig's trotter, split
1 medium onion, sliced
1 carrot, sliced

2 bay leaves
6 tablespoons brandy
6 tablespoons dry white wine
Chop the liver and pork very finely, or mince them coarsely. Combine the meats, garlic, shallot or onion, mace, salt, and whole green peppercorns and mix them well together. Fry a small quantity of the mixture to test its seasoning, remembering that this will be less pronounced when the terrine is served cold.

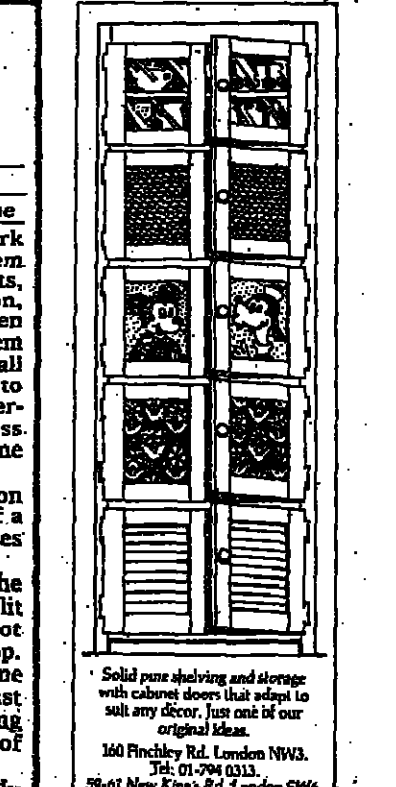
Use the back fat or bacon to line the base and sides of a terrine of about 1.25 litres (2½ pints) capacity.

Fill the terrine with the meat mixture. Place the split trotter, onion and carrot slices and bay leaves on top. Pour in the brandy and wine and, if necessary, bring enough cold water to just the liquid up to the level of the meat.

Cover the terrine closely with foil or a lid and bake in the centre of a preheated oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about three hours. Remove it from the oven and allow the terrine to cool a little. Discard the trotter and vegetables before the aspic sets. Cover the terrine and mature it in the refrigerator for two or three days before serving it at room temperature.

The texture of this pâté is fairly coarse and free. It may be weighted as it cools to solidify the texture further.

Published by Prospect Books, 45 Lamont Road, London SW10 0HU. Issue 10 contains the report on red peppercorns.



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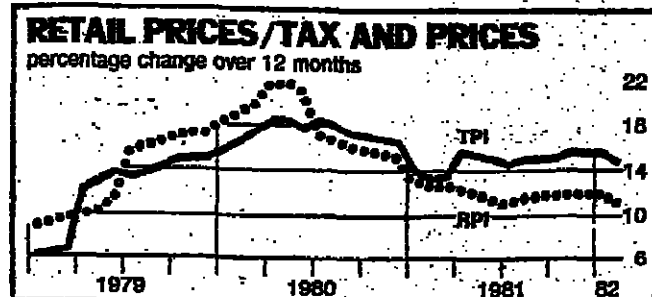
Stock Exchange Prices

Oils firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. § Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 1.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Inflation rate slows



Britain's inflation rate fell to 11 per cent in February, half the peak rate of 22 per cent recorded in the spring of 1980. The Retail Price Index did not change in February, the first time there has been no increase for 12 years. The Tax and Prices Index went up by less than 0.1 per cent to stand at 14.1 per cent above its level a year earlier.

Beckett forecasts upturn

The recent rise in Britain's exports and the effects of falling world oil prices will lead to a "light lift off" in the economy in the second half of this year with accelerating effects being felt next year, Sir Terence Beckett, the Confederation of British Industry Director General, forecast in Belfast yesterday. In his first speech since the Budget, he said the Chancellor could have afforded to cut two percentage points off the national insurance surcharge without facing an excessive borrowing requirement.

Fleming finds a formula

Robert Fleming Investment Management seems to have achieved a reorganization of its investment trusts acceptable to its main shareholders. The new plans include unitization of three of the 13 trusts — to comply with institutional shareholders' preference for a reduction in the number of trusts. A leading critic of the early plans, Mr Ian Henderson, a director of London and Manchester Assurance, which increased its stake in Fleming's United States and General Trust to block the changes, said: "I have made my peace with the Fleming's people. We have had full discussions before the announcement of the latest plans."

BP increases spot buying

BP is currently gearing up its oil buying on the spot market — at present to 25 per cent of its needs — in an attempt to cut trading losses, particularly on petrol sales. But to get a reasonable return on even this cheapest source of supply, petrol prices at the pump should be near or at 160p, Mr Ian Walker, chief executive and managing director of BP Oil, said in London yesterday.

Rolls Royce Motors is cutting its workforce at Coventry by 300 with a voluntary redundancy scheme. Two hundred redundancies will take place immediately and the rest by the end of the year. Plans to increase production have been postponed.

MARKET SUMMARY

New gilt fixed at £97.50

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT Gilt 98.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bargains 18,408

Overseas buyers kept the gilt market alive yesterday despite applications for the new Government index-linked stock falling short of expectations. The Bank of England surprised the market by fixing the opening price at £97.50, below earlier forecasts, with all orders allotted in full. The market had been expecting a sell-out with the price pitched at around £100. The news had little adverse effect on other gilt prices, but the three index-linked stocks fell by up to £1.

In long, prices were helped by the latest set of Retail Price Index figures, and closed with gains of 5/8, after 5/4, while shorts closed virtually unchanged. Equities advanced because of the continuing bear squeeze with electricals, stores and lenders all feeding the pinch. The FT Index finished slightly below the best of the day, nervously awaiting the next set of United States money figures, closing 5.9 up at 562.7.

Oils staged a long awaited rally on hopes that the Opec ministers' meeting in Vienna would agree to cut production to preserve the present price of \$34 a barrel. Among the leaders, rose 5p to 285p, Shell 6p to 362 and Lanes 15 to 27p. Second liners featured the Humby Grove twins Carless

Capel, up 13p to 149, and Canadave, 16p dealer at 170p. Observers believe the groups should benefit from the latest rise in the naphtha price and an upgrading of production target levels for Humby Grove.

In electricals, the bear squeeze helped Racal to gain 15p to 385p, Cable & Wireless, rose 8p to 250p and Plessey, added 8p to 385p. Brokers James Capel are recommending Standard Telephone & Cables, up 8p to 53p, while highlighting the potential for its optical fibres.

Huntley & Palmer, rose 2p to 92p despite the absence of a dawn raid by Nabisco, which is said to have considered the idea, but later abandoned it. Details of European Ferries, latest move into the continental commercial property market produced several furies including the sale of a line of shares which failed to affect the price, 3p up at 82p. But a line of 400,000 Simon Engineering shares left the price 3p lighter at 37p.

Midland Bank received an unexpected boost from its full year figures, rising 13p to 365p. This in turn lifted the other majors with Barclays, 8p up at 458p, Lloyds, 8p better at 443p and National Westminster, 10p higher at 440p.

Robert H. Lowe, the textile group, jumped 5p to 55p after several stakes changed hands, Gilt & Duffus rose 3p to 144p amid rumours that its Charlton and Fulton subsidiary was for sale.

Equity launched on March 18 at £118.284m (15,958 bargains).

Michael Clark

OTHER EXCHANGES
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,065.38, up 12.58.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,207.21, up 18.92.

COMMODITIES
Cocoa and tin producers took steps yesterday to support their flagging markets. The International Cocoa Organization agreed to borrow \$75m from a group of Brazilian banks and a Saudi Arabian bank. The loan will be financed by an increase in the levy from one cent to two cents a pound from October 1. Tin producers are likely to be called upon to cut their exports by 10 per cent in the markets cocoa fell to its lowest for nine months. March cocoa was 22s lower at 328 to 329.39. Dealers felt that the combination of higher West African and Brazilian crops and a buffer stock managers' ability to remove only another 35,000 tonnes from the market was

Slow start for inflation proof stocks

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

The Government's move to extend the availability of inflation-proofed marketable stocks to all investors has got off to a slow start.

At yesterday's offer for sale by tender of £750m of 2 per cent index-linked Treasury stock, private investors gave a clear thumbs down, leaving much of the stock to be taken up by the Bank of England's own issue Department.

Although no minimum tender price was set when the new stock was first announced last week, the Bank decided to set a striking price of £97.50. Here the real return is about 2 1/2 per cent.

Investors who applied for stock at £97.50 or above will be allotted as much stock as they applied for, all at a price of £97.50.

The Bank set its price at £97.50 because this produced a yield roughly in line with those available on the three existing index-linked stocks. The yields on these stocks have fallen sharply since the Chancellor announced that, in future, index-linked stocks would be available to all investors and not just pension funds.

While it could be argued that indexed stocks should provide protection against currency depreciation over the longer term, on the assumption that the inflation rate and the exchange rate are loosely linked, investors may well perceive that currency depreciation will lead to an increase in the inflation rate by many months. On that basis, they should not buy the stock.

Although overseas investors were reportedly nibbling at the existing stocks earlier in the week, many continued to be worried about the currency risk.

Franc stages a rally after early pressure

By Our Financial Staff

Most of the interest in foreign exchange markets continued to centre on the French franc yesterday. But after coming under further pressure early on the franc rallied as the day went on to close slightly firmer. Against the dollar it finished in European trading at Fr6.20.

The dollar itself was generally firm ahead of the weekly United States money supply figures. In particular, it gained ground against sterling during the afternoon, leaving the pound 1.05 cents lower on the day at \$1.7995.

In money markets the Bank of France again kept a tight rein on short-term interest rates, maintaining its intervention level at 17 per cent. But overnight rates eased back slightly, both in the domestic and European markets.

In London money markets interest rates were little changed in spite of Thursday's downward moves in German, Swiss and Dutch interest rates. Although good United States money supply figures over the weekend would help sentiment, the

general feeling appears to be that the authorities would be happier holding present rates than their current levels until well into April.

At the weekly Treasury Bill tender the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted firmed very slightly, from 12.46 to 12.48 per cent.

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general feeling appears to be that the authorities would be happier holding present rates than their current levels until well into April.



Taking a back seat with Sir Michael Edwards are (from left) Mr David Andrews, Mr Frank Fitzpatrick and Mr Ray Horrocks.

BL still on course despite £497m loss

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, Britain's state-controlled motors group, is set to reduce its trading losses by almost half this year and is firmly on target to break even by the end of next year.

That was the message of hope yesterday from Sir Michael Edwards, chairman, who said he was "more optimistic about the company's future today than at any time in the past four years."

Sir Michael was announcing BL's preliminary 1981 results which, as expected, showed a record loss of £497m compared with a 1980 deficit of £535.5m.

The loss at the trading level (before tax and interest) was £244.6m, a reduction of £50m on the previous year, which was boosted particularly by net interest charges

of £88.3m and a provision of £152m to cover restructuring and reorganising.

Total sales were down by £8m to £2,869m and would have been lower but for a £139m increase in overseas sales to £1,385m. BL's direct exports rose by £4m to £884m.

The group, which received £520m of state equity cash last year, has been granted a further £420m for this year and has told the Government it will need an additional £150m up to 1985. But that, Sir Michael said, would mark the end of the taxpayers' involvement and he was confident the group would cease to be a burden on the Government once it reached break even.

The target is to break even at the trading level in 1983 and at the pretax level the following year.

Sir Michael, however, confirmed his determination to leave BL when his contract expires at the end of the year and warned his as yet unnamed successor not to stay for an indefinite period. "Anyone in a job as visible as this one reaches a stage where he has to say: 'Is it helpful for me to continue?' Anyone doing this job knows what he could be doing to be a focus of love, hate and all sorts of other emotions. You get to the point where the company will suffer if this persists."

The chairman has, however, won the full backing of the government, particularly since accelerating the company's programme of disposal and decentralization in a bid to attract private capital.

Recently, BL negotiated £270m of medium-term bank loans. The ideal financial outcome for the company this year, Sir Michael said, would be to reduce trading losses to the same level as last year's half-year figure of £143m.

Substantial improvements occurred last year in the cars operation, with losses cut by £115m to £168m although this was offset by a big increase in the troubled truck and bus division. Leyland Group's loss rose by £30 in 1980 to £74m and would have been worse but for the contribution made by profitable overseas companies.

Last year's total losses included £96m to cover redundancy payments for 1981 and 1982.

Bad debts hit Midland profits

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A big rise in bad debt provisions left Midland Bank's profits virtually unchanged at £232.2m in 1981.

Its performance is the worst of the big four clearers. The others have all reported record profits for 1981, with Barclays up 8 per cent at £494m, Lloyds up 11.3 per cent to £348p and Nat West up 13p to 348p.

Midland has still pushed up 1981 dividends by nearly 12 per cent to 34.3p gross, and the shares rose 13p to 348p yesterday.

Bad debt provisions were £31m higher at £113.5m, although Midland expects the level to fall this year. Charges have been made for Laker Airways and Stone-Platt Industries.

The domestic clearing bank had a lower level of bad debts, and in contrast to some of the other clearing

banks made higher profits. Midland said the clearing bank benefited by tight cost control — staff costs rose by only 11.3 per cent and United Kingdom employees were 3,000 down — and a wider margin between base and deposit rates in the face of lower average interest rates during the year.

Clydesdale Bank in Scotland, which suffered badly from the Laker collapse, was unchanged, but improvements from other United Kingdom operations helped

the domestic side of the group to show a 31 per cent rise in pre-interest profit to about £199m. However, this was still 18 per cent down.

The recent acquisition of Crocker National in California, which transformed Midland's international operations, had little effect on profits at the international banking sector were static at around £122m after higher bad debts.

The acquisition of Crocker has swelled Midland's balance sheet, accounting for £10,600m of the rise in total assets from £25,350m to £41,015m. But it has also weakened the balance sheet, with the free equity ratio down from 4.68 at the end of 1980 to 3.5. Mr Stuart Graham, chief executive, said there were no plans for a rights issue.

British Steel resists further price rises

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

British Steel Corporation is planning to hold prices on a wide range of its products next month when other European steel producers implement the next round of rises.

The increases, which are being coordinated by Eurofer, the European steelmakers' cartel, with the blessing of the EEC Commission in a bid to restore stability and profitability to the industry, were strongly opposed by consumer interests when the present round was initiated last autumn.

They claimed that because of the recession and the low level of demand, the industry's customers were unable to pass on the price increases.

Customer sources claimed last night that BSC would be forgoing the planned increases on virtually all products apart from tinplate. But BSC said that the move would be selective according to both product and customer. The main factor influencing the corporation is starting's appreciation against other European currencies.

PLATT'S BANKERS HIT BACK

Mr Stuart Graham, Midland Bank's chief executive, responded angrily to criticism over the collapse of Stone-Platt. "I don't like being told by other institutions how to run the bank," he said. "They put their money where their mouth is," he said. Midland was still committed to helping viable companies, he added. Mr Bill Mackay of Ernst & Whinney, the Stone-Platt receivers, said there had been a lot of interest in parts of the group. "At the moment we're keeping as many as we possibly can in work."

Meanwhile, discussions are beginning over the future of the Commission's price regime for steel beyond the end of June. The Eurofer members have already said that they want the cartel regime to remain after June, subject to the Council of Ministers agreeing. But the industry's customers are expected to strongly resist further substantial price increases.

● Volkswagenwerk AG is planning to close its Hanover commercial vehicle plant for further 10 days before the mid-July holidays because of sharply falling domestic sales.

Further collaborative deals between Japanese and British companies in advanced technology sectors are likely to flow from government-to-government talks.

A number of deals have already been concluded involving British companies manufacturing Japanese products under licence in this country, and several others are at various stages of negotiation between companies.

In talks during the second meeting of the Anglo Japanese industrial collaboration committee in London further possibilities for extending collaboration in biotechnology, robotics, telecommunications, information technology and research into alternative energy sources were discussed.

Both Britain and Japan are anxious to explore the scope for increasing joint ventures and collaboration in third markets, in addition to transferring technology. During the talks, led by Mr Jack Gill, a deputy secretary at the Department of Industry, British officials emphasized the interest being shown by United Kingdom companies in developing their sales of telecommunications equipment to Japan.

The British Government is conscious that the liberalization of the telecommuni-

Opec agrees cut in oil production

From Jonathan Davis, Vienna, March 19

Oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) agreed tonight to set a ceiling of 18 million barrels a day of oil production. The Saudi minister, Sheikh Ahmed Z. Yamani, announced the agreement, which will be Opec members to hold a price of crude oil to pre-set levels.

Delegates from Opec's member countries met two and a half hours in morning and again in afternoon. The talks said to be going better than many observers expected.

However, the proposal Opec officials to cut production to a maximum of 18 million barrels a day, or less than 60 per cent of Opec's output, were not held by delegates for not large enough to eliminate glut.

The Nigerians were reported to have demanded another large cut in output from Saudi Arabia as the price for their oil held their prices at high levels. The Algerians pressed for a 10 per cent reduction in output to around 17.5 million barrels a day.

Dr. Humbert Bertin, Venezuela's energy minister, said producers' or not yet decided price cuts, but he talked about 10 to 15 per cent.

● The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry indicated that they would encourage a seminar in Tokyo, similar to one held for American telecommunications companies, to explain the opportunities for foreign suppliers.

Plessey is attempting to build up exports of digital PBXs (private automatic branch exchanges) to Japan, and other British electronics companies, including Racal Ferranti and Thorn EMI, are hoping to negotiate greater access to the Japanese market.

The committee acts as an umbrella body, and its role is to identify areas for collaboration, to negotiate deals, with negotiating to companies themselves.

The Japanese trade mission to the Japan Economic Cooperation Organization (JECCO) is regarded by the Japanese Government as a key to easing the growing friction between the two countries.

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Standby credit to finance Cairo

Chase to raise \$200m

By Michael Prest

Chase Manhattan is to raise the first public loan for Egypt since 1977. The \$200m credit which is under syndication, will be used to fund Egypt's mounting current account deficit.

The \$200m is a standby revolving credit with only two years maturity, although the Central Bank of Egypt, the official borrower, can extend the period for 12 months. A standby revolving credit makes funds available to the borrower on demand up to an agreed limit provided repayments are made.

The spread is 1/2 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate for the first 18 months and 1/4 per cent after that. Brazil, Mexico and other developing countries

have recently paid higher interest rates on loans. Chase, which is making this loan through its London merchant banking arm, Chase Manhattan Ltd, has cultivated close connections with Egypt since the mid-1970s when it then chairman, Mr David Rockefeller, enthusiastically endorsed President Jimmy Carter's wooing of the late President Anwar Sadat.

In 1975 Chase was the first bank to set up a joint venture bank in Egypt under Law 43, the "open door policy" by which President Sadat reversed the policy of President Gamel Abdul Nasser. Then two years later Chase organized a \$250m private credit for the country.

The new loan reflects a rapid deterioration in Egypt's external finances. Foreign debt totals about \$12,000m, and after two good years the balance of payments has

worsened substantially. A fall in oil prices and in remittances from Egyptians working abroad, has swung the balance of payments from a positive \$1,500m in 1980 to roughly an equilibrium last year and a deficit this year.

In 1980 imports were worth \$7,000m, while exports amounted to just under \$4,000m. But last month the Economic Planning and Budget Committee of the People's Assembly recommended that only capital and strategic goods should be imported.

Other major banks are being asked by Chase to participate in the loan, but the bank declined to say with whom it is negotiating.

Mr David Rockefeller

MONEY

Keeping ahead of the tax inspector

Budget out of the next date looming in the tax diary is the end of the year and there are a number of matters to be dealt with before April 5 if you wish to minimise your liability.

Self-employed and anyone who is in a non-pensionable job should check that they have taken best advantage of the full tax relief available on contributions to self-employed pension schemes. Tax relief is given at your highest marginal rate, and at the top end of the scale this means that the 60 per cent taxpayer obtains £100 worth of investment for a net outlay of only £40.

For those retired in 1981-82 this could be the last chance to make a pension contribution without getting into difficulties over eligibility requirements. Maximum contribution is 17.5 per cent of "net relevant earnings" (income, less expenses) — higher for people over the age of 50.

It is possible to carry forward unused relief from previous years so if you have had a profitable 12 months, you might want to relate back some of your contributions to previous years.

Covenants

Parents who are paying to keep a child at university (or in other full-time education) can save 30 per cent of the child's maintenance costs by making payments to the child (who must be over 18) by a deed of covenant. A covenant is allowed tax relief (at the basic rate only) on the gross amount of a covenant, and the recipient is entitled to reclaim tax deducted at source (a non-taxpayer).

The end of the tax year is a good time to set up a deed of covenant since the student's income is known and you can make fairly precise calculations how much it is worth covenanting. Making a covenant now for 1981-82 reduces the amount of time before the student is able to reclaim tax. Covenants can be made between any two people — a parent and a child, for example — but in the case of a parent, you will only be entitled to tax relief on payments made to your own child.

Assurance

If you want to obtain tax relief on insurance premiums for 1981-82, the premiums must actually be paid before 15, 1982.

Tax relief is granted at a rate of 15 per cent for

premiums paid on a qualifying life policy, up to a limit of £1,500 a year or a sixth of your income (whichever is the greater).

Husband/Wife

It may pay married couples with joint income of £17,000 or more to elect to be taxed separately. Under separate taxation (not to be confused with separate assessment, where the total tax bill remains the same but is shared in proportion between the husband and wife) the husband loses the married man's tax allowance but both partners are entitled to a single person's allowance. As a result they can both claim up to £11,250 of taxable income each (1981-82) before becoming liable to higher rate tax.

If they are taxed together their joint incomes will clearly push them immediately into higher rate tax bands. The point at which it pays to opt for separate taxation is where the joint income is £17,000 or more. The figure will be higher if you have mortgage interest relief or maintenance payments to set off against income.

A wife's investment income is always treated as though it belonged to her husband and you should take this into account before making the separate taxation election. You can opt for separate taxation any time up to 12 months after the end of the tax year. Those choosing separate taxation for 1980-81 have until April 5 to decide.

Golden Handshakes

Anyone being offered a redundancy payment of £50,000 or more should make up their mind before April 5. At the moment, the first £25,000 of a golden handshake is tax free and the excess is taxed at half your marginal rate. This means in effect that the maximum tax liability will be 30 per cent on the excess over £25,000.

For people made redundant after April 5, 1982 the first £25,000 is taxed at half your marginal rate, the next £25,000 at three quarters of your marginal rate and the excess over £75,000 at your full tax rate.

Capital Gains Tax

The Chancellor made some important changes to CGT which we dealt with at length last week. It will pay you to realize capital gains within the annual exemptions (£3,000 for the current year, £5,000 for 1982-83). But it is less clear whether it is worthwhile "bed and breakfasting" (selling and buying

back) shares to establish a capital loss. From April 5, 1982, the acquisition price of securities and other assets will be index-linked in line with inflation and capital gains tax will be payable only on the excess over the inflation-adjusted acquisition cost.

If you realize your losses, you establish a lower base line for index linking which will be to your disadvantage. In addition, index-linking does not start until one year after the date of acquisition so if you are bed and breakfasting you also lose 12 months' inflation linking. This will not matter of course if you are simply cutting your losses and selling out for good. In that case you offset any capital loss against other capital gains.

Conclusion
The calculations necessary to establish whether a particular move is worthwhile in tax terms are almost invariably complex. If you have substantial assets or income it will pay to consult an accountant. But for those left to wrestle with the problems alone, there is help available.

The Consumers Association publishes an excellent *Tax Saving Guide* every year in the March edition of *Money*. To obtain a copy you have to be a regular subscriber to both *Which* and the *Money* *Which* supplement.

The guide covers every aspect of personal taxation and gives simple worked examples and advice on how to deal with the Inland Revenue. All but the innumerate should be able to cope with their tax affairs after consulting the guide. An annual subscription to *Which* magazine and *Money* *Which* supplement costs £15 including post and is available from the Consumers Association, Caxton Hill, Hertford, SG13 7LZ.

Slightly more technical — but equally straightforward — is the *Hanbro Tax Guide*. This costs £8 and is published by Queen Anne Press, MacDonald & Co, Paulston House, Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7LW.

The provisions for relating back pension contributions to previous years are complicated and if you feel you cannot deal with them, a pension consultant or registered insurance broker (not to mention insurance company representative) will be delighted to help.

Insurance companies are a mine of free information on Capital Transfer Tax, Life Assurance relief and pension relief.

Lorna Bourke

Meagre return on new issue

The new twenty-fourth issue of National Savings certificates, announced by the Chancellor on his Budget speech, will be a disappointment to investors. It goes on sale on April 19 and offers a tax-free return of only 8.92 per cent over the five year term. Maximum investment is £2,500.

At this level the new certificates are unlikely to appeal to anyone but those who pay tax at the top rates. Building society investors can currently earn 9.75 per cent net of basic rate tax on an extra interest account, and although building society interest rates are not fixed, the immediate appeal of an extra interest account is considerably greater than this rather dismal new offering from National Savings.

If basic rate taxpayers really want to tie up their money for five years, they will do much better with a five year income bond, currently available with a return of 11.7 per cent net of basic rate tax from Crown Life (see *Money* *Which* for other income bonds).

Higher rate taxpayers who have already bought the maximum holding of previous issues of National Savings certificates, might be tempted to bite at the bait. But the new issue of index-linked gilts is likely to prove a better bet. The allocation price of £97.50 announced yesterday gives investors inflation proofing for their capital plus a real return of about 2.25 per cent a year.

Compared with the 24th issue certificates with index-linked gilts, unless you believe that inflation is going to run at less than 8.9 per cent over the coming five years, the index-linked gilts must be a bargain. National Savings has also announced extension terms for holders of 8th and 12th issue National Savings certificates which are not very appealing. The return over the coming year is equivalent to 8.4 per cent. Basic rate taxpayers should cash in and buy a one year income bond which offers 10.5 per cent (see *Family Money* Market).



Grimsby fishermen: they will be happy with the scheme which nets them a guaranteed minimum pension.

A lifeline for fishermen

Grimsby fishermen who regularly face the elements to ensure our supplies of fresh fish, can set forth with renewed confidence in their future. The Grimsby Fishing Vessel Owners Association has set up a pension scheme for its 900 member fishermen on an industry-wide basis, removing the problem which comes with frequent job changes.

All employers will contribute 5 per cent of an employee's earnings up to £10,400 a year to the fund and the fishermen will be able to make tax deductible contributions of their own on a voluntary basis to boost their pension.

The scheme which is being managed by Save and Prosper offers a guaranteed minimum pension and contributions will be invested in Save and Prosper's Managed Pension Fund.

Industry-based schemes — rare compared with the more usual employer-run pension funds — get around the problem of reduced pension benefits for early leavers. With an industry-based scheme the job-changer remains a member of the same pension fund and suffers no reduction of his benefits when moving from one firm to another.

Pensioners may earn more under new rules

Pensioners, the sick and disabled will be pleased at the prospect of higher state benefits in November. But this is not the only improvement. The Chancellor has also raised the limits on the amounts which can be earned while receiving benefits.

By far the biggest group to benefit will be pensioners. At present they are allowed to earn just £52 a week. Above this limit, set almost three years ago, their pension starts to be reduced. From November, the earnings limit becomes £57.

Most pensioners will tell you that there should not be an earnings limit at all, and indeed the Government has said it is committed to ending the rule, but only when economic circumstances permit.

Presently, the single pensioner is £29.60 a week. Earnings below £52 a week do not affect. Earnings of £56 cut the pension by £2, and as earnings increase beyond this, the pension is cut on a 10p for 10p basis. Weekly earnings of around £64 are enough to cancel the pension.

From November, the pension will be £32.85. Using the same formula, but based on the new £57 level, the pension will be lost when earnings reach £92 a week.

Where a wife is under pensionable age, her husband's earnings can cut into any extra pension he gets for her. At present, a married couple's pension of £47.35 a week is lost when earnings top £102 a week; from November, when the pension will be £52.55, the earnings needed for the pension to be lost will be £112.

This rule applies to men aged between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65. Over those ages earnings, however high, do not affect the pension.

Not only will pensioners benefit from the raising of their earnings limit, others collecting different state benefits will also find themselves better off.

For example, anyone getting invalid care allowance

while looking after a sick or old person is only allowed to earn £6 a week. If earnings go over this, the benefit stops. This limit has been in force since 1976 when invalid care allowance was first paid. This limit will double.

Those who are sick or get a tonic too. Anyone who receives sickness or invalidity benefit is allowed to take on part-time work of a "therapeutic" nature, provided their doctor approves and the Department of Health and Social Security agrees. Presently, there is a limit of £16.50 a week on the amount which can be earned. This will go up in November to £20.

Ian McDonald

Lloyds loans cheapest

Lloyds Bank, the last of the big four high street banks to cut its home loan rate, announced this week a 1.5 per cent reduction bringing its home loan rate down to 13.5 per cent.

This makes Lloyds home loans the cheapest. Monthly repayments on each £1,000 borrowed over 25 years from Lloyds work out at £11.54 compared with £11.75 from a building society or £11.72 from Lloyds' nearest competitor, Barclays.

Although Lloyds home

loan rate of 13.5 per cent is the same as that quoted by the building societies, the true rate of interest on a building society loan is higher because they calculate interest at less frequent intervals than the banks. The Director General of Fair Trading is currently reviewing the building societies' exemption from the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act which require lenders to quote true interest rates according to a fixed formula.

FAMILY MONEY MATTERS

Banks

Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Lloyds and NatWest 10 per cent; Midland, 10 per cent; seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £5,000-£25,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits 1 month 12 per cent, 3 and 6 months, 12 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds

Simco 7-day fund, 13.63 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14.37 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.37 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.37 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-782241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank

Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent. Fixed-term deposits — 1 year, Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal. Maximum investment £200,000. *Reducing to 13 per cent on April 1.

National Savings Index-linked certificates

Maximum investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in

Local authority town hall bonds

Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr 13%, 4.5, 6, 14%; 2 yr 13%, 7 yr 14%, 3 yr 14%, 8.5, 10, 14%.

Finance for Industry

Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808. Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13% p.c.; 5-7 years, 13% p.c.; 8-10 years, 13% p.c. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-926 7822).

Local authority yearling bonds

12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13% p.c. basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds

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MONEY TALK

Campaign to promote new homes

Britain's housebuilders are preparing to spend as much as £100,000 this year to change their image through the launch of the New Homes Marketing Board. They have been joined by material producers and energy authorities. The aim of the new marketing board is to sell more new houses by assuring us that building standards have been vastly improved and that the claim "they don't build houses like they used to" is outdated.

Through a publicity campaign, including a major national competition, builders are setting out to woo buyers on to development sites to convince them of the benefits of new homes.

According to Mr Richard Dibben, president of the House Builders Federation, "New houses have suffered for too long from the negative images which are a hangover from the 1950s."

Leeds follows

One hundred per cent loans for house purchase are now available from Leeds Permanent Building Society. Leeds joins Abbey National and Bristol & West as the third major society to offer this facility.

Leeds will lend up to 100 per cent of the purchase price on homes costing up to £30,000, 95 per cent up to £40,000, 90 per cent on homes costing up to £50,000 and 85 per cent above this figure. As always there is a catch.

You have to be prepared to fork out for the premium on an insurance policy to indemnify the building society in the event of the society incurring a loss. On a £25,000, 100 per cent loan over 25 years the insurance premium would be £132.50.

Gilts interest

Reader interest in index-linked gilts has been running high, but there still seems to be some confusion on how the interest is adjusted for inflation. For example, here is how the March 1983 payment on the new 2 per cent index-linked Treasury Stock 1988, will be calculated.

The base from which the rate of inflation is to be calculated is July 1981. If inflation is what the Government says it will, then the rise in year to July 1982 will be 9 per cent. There is an eight-month time lag before this is applied to the interest payment.

Aiming for capital

Royal Life is launching two new unit trusts which will aim to provide investors with capital growth rather than income. Royal Life International Trust and Royal Life Equity Trust will aim for long term performance, with both trusts taking an interest in the electrical and electronics industries and also of the specialized chemical and pharmaceutical companies, as well as natural resources stocks.

The International Trust will invest mainly in Japan and the USA, with small amounts in Australia and Canada.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCL	13%
Consolidated Crds.	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSS	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 2 day deposit on sums of £10,000 or more, £10,000 to £50,000 11%, £50,000 and over 11.5%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	P/L Yld %
129	100	Ass Brit Ind. CULS	129 +1	10.0	7.8	—
75	62	Adfrapung Group	75 —	4.7	6.4	11.6
51	33	Armlage & Rhodes	45 —	4.3	9.6	8.5
205	187	Bardon Hill	199 +1	9.7	4.9	9.7
107	100	CCL 11%, Cony Pref	107 —	15.7	14.7	—
104	63	Deborah Services	107 —	6.0	9.5	3.1
131	97	Frank Horsell	127 —	6.4	5.0	11.4
83	39	Frederick Parker	81 —	6.4	7.9	4.1
78	46	George Blair	53 —	—	—	—
102	33	Ind Prec Castings	95 —	7.3	7.7	6.8
109	100	Isle Cony Pref	109 —	15.7	14.4	—
113	94	Jackman Group	107 —	7.0	7.2	3.1
130	108	James Burroughs	114 +1	8.7	7.6	8.3
334	248	Robert Jenkins	248 +1	5.3	8.3	12.6
61	51	Scruttons "A"	64 +1	5.3	8.3	12.6
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159 —	10.7	6.7	5.1
15	10	TwinklOCK Ord	13% —	—	—	—
80	66	TwinklOCK 15% ULS	75 —	15.0	19.0	—
44	25	TwinklOCK Holdings	25 —	3.0	12.0	4.5
103	73	Walker Alexander	79 —	6.4	8.1	5.2
263	212	W. S. Yeates	228 —	13.1	5.7	4.3

* Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

Advertisements criticized

ing on this was that the advertisers had made the conditions attached to the advertisements reasonably clear but it was concerned at the "debasement" of the word by its over-emphatic use.

A complaint against Leeds Permanent Building Society concerning its advertisements for extra interest accounts is particularly significant. Leeds claimed that its extra interest account paid one per cent more than the paid-up share rate for investments of £5,000 or more.

The complainant pointed out that interest on the paid-up share account was paid six monthly, but investors in the

extra interest account received interest annually. This meant that there was not a true 1 per cent differential on the accounts.

National Savings Bank came in for some stick from a customer who objected to the fact that children under 7 could not make withdrawals from their investment account but claimed that the advertisements did not make this clear. The complaint was upheld.

Consumers might now turn their attention to NSB's method of calculating interest on investment accounts which make it virtually impossible to obtain the interest rate quoted.

INVESTMENT OF A LIFETIME

£595	→	£4,956 IN 1992
→	→	£9,754 IN 1997
→	→	£19,197 IN 2002
→	→	£37,779 IN 2007

Compare £1,595 invested into this plan with similar alternative investments based on current interest rates.

Investment Period	Friendly Society	Building Society	Ordinary Gilts	Guaranteed Bond	Index-linked Bond
10 years	£ 4,956	£ 4,427	£ 4,244	£ 3,934	£ 4,533
15 years	£ 9,754	£ 7,377	£ 6,856	£ 6,094	£ 7,642
20 years	£19,197	£10,518	£ 9,475	£ 8,183	£12,883
25 years	£37,779	£20,481	£16,178	£14,931	£21,716

* Small tax liability for higher rate taxpayers. * Less for higher rate taxpayers.

Life cover of up to £2,000 is provided but no medical is required.

Your money is invested only into Trustee securities, currently into British Government securities (gilts) offering high yields with no tax liability. Normally you have to be either a nil taxpayer or a non-resident to benefit from this outstanding tax advantage. The Society's investment income and gains will be converted into bonuses, which are then guaranteed for the duration of your investment.

Because of this the contribution level and eligibility is strictly limited — only husbands and wives, and single parents, can participate and the maximum contribution level, after tax relief, is around £21.25 per month, £244.80 per annum or £1,595 as an equivalent single payment.

Compare £1,595 invested into this plan with similar alternative investments based on current interest rates.

Investment Period: 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years. Friendly Society, Building Society, Ordinary Gilts, Guaranteed Bond, Index-linked Bond.

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

MILLS AND ALLEN

Selection strategy pays off

Mills and Allen International, the money broker, is concentrating on the business it knows best.

In the six months to December, the group, which is headed by Sir Ian Morrow, pushed profits ahead by £1m to £5.22m because of a rise in earnings from the financial services division. This included first-time contributions from its companies in West Germany and the United States, which were bought last spring. Group turnover in the period was up £2.9m to £22.9m.

At the attributable level profits are boosted by £1.74m, which, after tax and expenses, comes from the disposal of its stake in Lestrat. M&A sold its 9.9 per cent shareholding after it failed to gain control in a contested bid last year which the Swedish group, Esselte, eventually won. So attributable profits are £4.99m compared with £2.7m last time. Earnings per share are 12 pence higher at 25.9p.

Profits from M&A's media contracting division were similar to the previous year with higher profits from its Far Eastern media company offsetting reduced profits from the United Kingdom and Belgian outdoor advertising interests.

In February two deals, worth £21.6m, brought the group Guy Butler, the United Kingdom money broker, and the Chapdelaine Group, a



Sir Ian Morrow, chairman of M&A

leading United States Government securities dealer. Once these are merged money broking should contribute two-thirds of profits.

M&A's poster and advertising wing has also made further acquisitions. In January it bought 85 per cent of the David Koffel Group, one of Australia's leading cinema advertising contractors. Earlier this month it paid £1.1m for Poser Publicity Holdings.

Last year the posters side made £488,000 before tax and net tangible assets were £313,000.

The half-year dividend has been lifted to 8.57p gross from 7.14p but the group's shares dropped 10p to 518p.

WARING & GILLOW

Stores cutback

With trading conditions remaining extremely difficult

furniture retailer Waring & Gillow managed only a 2 per cent increase in turnover to £42.4m in the six months to September, as operating profits slipped from £357,000 to £348,000.

After exceptional items of £655,000 relating to property disposal, half-year profits before tax were £1m against £2.8m in 1980, when the sale of the Regent Street store contributed £3.4m.

The board has undertaken a complete review of trading activities leading to the closure of a number of stores, largely in cities which had both a Waring & Gillow and a Maples store.

There are further closures to come both at home and in France, where losses from Maples' operations have been largely halted. But in the United States the group will shortly have seven stores which Mr John Cussins, managing director, hopes to see making a contribution to profits by next year.

Although there has been no improvement in trading in the second half, tight control on expenses and significant cost savings will be fully felt in the next financial year, the board says.

The dividend for the half year is held at 2.14p gross. Earnings per share fell from 21.9p last time to 6.78p.

GEORGE OLIVER

Small advance

George Oliver (Footwear), which recently beat Ward White in a takeover contest for Hiltons Footwear with an agreed £9.8m bid, reports a small profits advance to £1.3m in the year to December. This compares with £1.1m

in the previous year on sales up by £5m to £17.5m. The final gross dividend is lifted to 5.71p making a total payment of 7.44p against 6.29p last time.

An extraordinary credit of £1.8m compares with £1.3m last time. Earnings per share are depressed at 18.1p compared with 18.37p.

Overall, with a chain of 300 retail outlets after merger with Hiltons, agreed in January to sell properties worth £7.8m to the National Water Council Superannuation Fund.

This followed the group's announced policy last November of selling a shop portfolio for at least £8.66m, which it intended to give over the money with which to pay for Hiltons.

AIM GROUP

Offer for sale

AIM Group, which manufactures aircraft cabin interiors, is coming to the market through an offer for sale of four million shares at 140p, representing 38 per cent of the equity, and valuing the group at £14.7m.

On the basis of dividends totalling 5.75p forecast for the year to April, this offers a prospective yield of 5.87 per cent at the issue price, and a net price earnings multiple of 13.6 on forecast pretax profits of £2.2m.

The group is one of the leaders in its field of supplying a complete package to airlines. Although the group also has interests in mechanical and electrical contracting and in manufacturing microwave ovens, the directors expect the aviation division to remain predominant.

This is expected to come partly from the replacement of aircraft, partly from the growth in the market for commuter aircraft, and the rest from defence spending by Western governments, the directors say.

The offer for sale, being made by County Bank, includes 500,000 net shares which will raise £340,000 net as additional working capital. Brokers are Cazenove, and the offer closes on March 25.

BIDS AND DEALS

Research Surveys of Great Britain, a subsidiary of AGB Research, has acquired a 20 per cent stake in Q.E.D. International Marketing Research Services.

Q.E.D., consumer research company, has been acquired by AGB Research, a subsidiary of the major part of its revenue is in the UK, substantial business is transacted in Germany, France and Italy. Mr Alan Harvey and Mr Nigel Spackman, joint managing directors of Q.E.D., become directors of Q.E.D.

The two companies, with assets of £30,000, provide a range of specialised computer services from the sale of micro-computers and customised software development to personnel recruitment and training. These activities

are complementary to the processing services provided by Dupont Computer Services, subsidiary of Dupont and will enable these companies to provide a more comprehensive range of computer services to their customers.

CAPITAL MARKETS

General Motors Acceptance is raising \$100m with a three-year Eurobond convertible into 1987 lead manager Credit Suisse First Boston has said.

After a successful launching in the market, arrangements have been completed for the offering of \$200m of new notes by Malaysia through an international syndicate led by Swiss Bank Corporation International.

COMMODITIES

COPPER: Higher grade was steady at \$1.05-1.06. Lower grade was steady at \$0.95-1.00. Three months' contract was steady at \$1.05-1.06. One month's contract was steady at \$0.95-1.00. Spot was steady at \$0.95-1.00.

WHEAT: Higher grade was steady at \$1.05-1.06. Lower grade was steady at \$0.95-1.00. Three months' contract was steady at \$1.05-1.06. One month's contract was steady at \$0.95-1.00. Spot was steady at \$0.95-1.00.

WHEAT: Higher grade was steady at \$1.05-1.06. Lower grade was steady at \$0.95-1.00. Three months' contract was steady at \$1.05-1.06. One month's contract was steady at \$0.95-1.00. Spot was steady at \$0.95-1.00.

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WALL STREET

New York, March 19 Stocks were slightly higher at the close after alternating between small gains and losses during the day.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 0.38 to 805.65. It had moved within two points either way during the session.

But advances were ahead of declines from the start and at the close the gainers led by better than a 4-to-3 margin.

Volume dropped back to 48.5 million shares from yesterday's 54.2 million.

There was a slowing of trading during the afternoon ahead of the

Federal Reserve's money supply figures due after the close with predictions ranging from a flat figure to a reduction of \$1,000m or so. The Federal Reserve reported that M1 fell \$400m.

The Commerce Department said durable goods orders rose 1.5 per cent in February. A revision of the fourth-quarter 1981 gross national product showed a 4.5 per cent contraction in the period compared with its original estimate of a 5.2 per cent decline.

Mr Jerry Rolla, chairman of the investment policy committee at Shearson-American Express said: "The market periodically tries to rally when the pessimism builds to a point where it runs out of sellers."

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Unit Trust Prices. This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday—FT index change on week 562.7 - 4.2 (0.7%)

Unit Trust	Current Price	Previous Price	Change	Unit Trust	Current Price	Previous Price	Change
Abacus Unit Trust	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus Growth Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus Income Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus Property Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus World Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus US Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus Japan Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
Abacus Europe Fund	10.00	9.95	+0.05	Practical Investment Co Ltd	10.00	9.95	+0.05
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Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.25-8.55 Open University: Can You Hear Me? 5.30 Work and Retirement; 7.15 Educating the World; 7.40 History of Maths; 8.05 To Bedford from Buss; 8.30 Art and Environment; 9.05 The Do-It-Yourself Film Animation Show; how to make a cartoon (v); 9.30 Sweep Shop: From Bruges, Belgium. In the studio: speaker champion Steve Davis, Adam Ant and Kevin Keegan; 12.15 Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.20 Football Final; 1.10 Basketball: Just Juice Championship Finals; from Wembley Arena; 1.25 Ice skating (Torvill and Dean in the champions exhibition); 1.40 Basketball; 2.10 Boxing: The best of the action from this week's events at the Royal Albert Hall; 2.25 International Rugby Union: Wales v Scotland; from Cardiff Arms Park; 3.50 Half-time scores; 3.55 International Rugby Union: France v Ireland. From Paris.

BBC 2

6.25-3.10. Open University. The Client; 7.15 Maths; 7.40 Baroque wind instruments; 8.05 Dome on the Range; 8.30 Edinburgh; 8.55 Too Busy to Hate; 9.20 Landscape; 9.45 ABC in Kansas City; 10.10 Why Build Models? 10.35 Ethereal Images; 11.00 Maths; 11.25 Genesis; 11.50 Easy as ABC? 1.05 Equations; 12.40 Statistics; 1.15 Is it Significant? 1.30 Bronze Casting; 1.55 Reading Development; 2.20 Coat; 2.45 Systems Boundaries and Blades; 3.30 Film: Father of the Bride* (1950) Endering comedy romance about a wedding in a small American town. Elizabeth Taylor is the bride, Spencer Tracy the father, Joan Bennett the mother.

ITV/LONDON

8.35 Sesame Street: with The Muppets; 9.35 Space 1999: Space Brain (v); 10.30 Tinseltown: entertainment for children and easily-pleased parents; 12.15 World of Sport: The line-up is: 12.20 On the Ball; 12.45 Ice Speedway World Individual Championship Final, from Inzell, West Germany; 1.05 Swimming (Soviet Union v East Germany, from Moscow); 1.15 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITV Six: We see the 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 from Lifford; and the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 from Newcastle; 3.00 Women's International Hockey: Live, from Wembley Stadium — the England versus The Netherlands match. This is the first time that the new, experimental rules for women's hockey will have been seen in operation on television. The Dutch team are the world champions; 3.45 Half-time football results. And a breakdown of the other sporting results received so far this afternoon.

BBC 1

6.25 Open University. Frank Lloyd Wright; 6.50 Hindu village; 7.15 Systems Modelling; 7.40 Computing at the Royal Bank of Scotland (11.25); 8.05 Deep Sea Drilling (11.50); 8.30 Energy to Go Round (11.30); 9.05 At 2.10: Horizon: The Future — Made in Japan? Why the Japanese, flushed with success in the technological field, are worried about the prospect of having to undertake fundamental research for the first time (v); 9.30 Live from the Barbican: Lecture/concert — the second in a new series. John Arns discusses Beethoven's Eroica Symphony with Yehudi Menuhin who rehearses, then conducts, the London Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the work.

BBC 2

Open University until 1.55, includes the Nature of Chemistry (7.40); Computing at the Royal Bank of Scotland (11.25); 8.05 Deep Sea Drilling (11.50); 8.30 Energy to Go Round (11.30); 9.05 At 2.10: Horizon: The Future — Made in Japan? Why the Japanese, flushed with success in the technological field, are worried about the prospect of having to undertake fundamental research for the first time (v); 9.30 Live from the Barbican: Lecture/concert — the second in a new series. John Arns discusses Beethoven's Eroica Symphony with Yehudi Menuhin who rehearses, then conducts, the London Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the work.

ITV/LONDON

9.05 Me and My Camera: useful hints for the tyro (v); 9.30 Cartoons; 9.45 God's Story: Moses and Joshua; 10.00 God Help Me: An analysis of The Lord's Prayer; 10.30 But What Do You Really Believe? Interview with the Ven. Rev. Canon B. S. Sangharshita, founder of the Western Buddhist Order; 11.00 Getting On: extended-care hospitals; 1.00 Skin: First in a new series about black; 1.30 The Great Depression: Final film in Godfrey Hodgson's series about the repercussions of the 1929 Stock Market crash. It asks: could it happen again?; 2.30 News headlines. Then, The Big Match: Action from three of yesterday's top League games; 3.30 The Adventures of Top Beauty: A meeting with a kindly tramp (Derek Smith). Starring Judi Bowker (v).

5.05 The All New Pink Panther Show: three cartoons.
5.25 News: with Jan Leeming; 5.35 Sports round-up.
5.40 The Dukes of Hazzard: The dastardly Boss takes advantage of Bo Duke's amnesia by telling him that he is his son.
6.30 Jim'll Fix It: A boy is flown to Antwerp to see diamonds being cut. And a girl who normally gets few letters, is engulfed by a tidal wave of correspondence.
7.05 Ken Dodd's Showbiz Music Hall entertainment, with the American magician Norm Maclean (his violin plays itself), mid-air, the knockout comedian The Ghozi Troop, and Prol Yaffie Chuckabutt (Mr. Dodd).
7.40 Film: Red Alert (1977). Made-for-TV thriller about a time bomb that has been placed in the nerve centre of a "decoy" computer in the Atomic Energy Agency. Fourteen men are trapped there. With William Devane, Michael Brandon.

5.00 The Sky at Night: Patrick Moore interviews Heather Coupe about the invisible star of Epsilon Aurigae. It may be the biggest star known to science (v).
5.20 Affluence — The Second Handicap. Chris Davies, a spastic from Birkenhead, explodes some of the myths that surround disability.
6.10 Did You See...? Coin Welland on We'll Meet Again; Andrew Phillips on Out of Court; and Janet Suzman on Disappearing World: Asante Market Women in Accra, Ghana.
6.50 News: and sport round-up.
7.05 Handel's Messiah: Recorded in Westminster Abbey. Original baroque instruments are used by the Academy of Ancient Music.

4.00 World of Sport (continued). Wrestling: two singles and a tag match. From Hemet: 4.30 Results service.
5.05 News from ITN.
5.15 Happy Days: Lori Beth gets a long-distance proposal of marriage, and Marion competes in a TV game show.
5.45 Dick Turpin: A village is held to ransom by a notorious fanatic (John Gielgud) and his bullying lackey (Robert Russell).
6.15 Mind Your Language: Comedy series, set in a language school. Today: teacher (Barry Evans) and some of his students and up in court (v).
6.45 3-2-1 Comedy quiz show, hosted by Red Rogers. The theme tonight is horror, of the Dracula variety.
7.45 Hart to Hart: Thriller series, with Stefanie Powers and Robert Wagner as the husband-and-wife private investigators.
8.45 News from ITN. And sports round-up.

4.15 Motor Racing: First round of the European Formula Two Championship. From Silverstone. The Marlboro International Trophy.
4.45 International Darts: 5.00 The Onedin Line: Nautical drama serial, set in the days of the big ships. With Peter Gilmore as James Onedin (v); 5.50 News.
6.00 Holmer: John Carter in out-of-season Cyprus. Tom Savage goes skiing in Austria; and Paul Hughes goes painting in Constantinople.
6.35 Richard Baker: an appeal on behalf of television for the deaf fund.
6.40 Songs of Praise: from Tenby, Dyfed.
7.15 Open All Hours: The return of the comedy series starring Ronnie Barker as the avuncular shopkeeper.
7.45 Film: Logan's Run (1976) Science fiction drama about a future society in which everyone over 30 is doomed. With Michael York, Jenny Agutter.

4.30 How Death Came to Earth: Indian cartoon.
4.45 International Rugby Special: Highlights from yesterday's France v Ireland and Wales v Scotland matches.
6.00 News Review: with sub-titles.
6.30 The Money Programme: The parlous plight of British football.
7.15 The World About Us: Big Business in Bees. The story of two species — the "Solitary" bee and the Californian honey bee — which are very highly prized in the United States. But there is a threat in the shape of a bee from South America.
8.05 Nancy Astor: Part six. A political opera opens for Nancy Astor (Liza Harrow) when her husband Waldorf (James Fox) inherits his father's title in the House of Lords.
8.55 News: with Jan Leeming.

4.00 Cartoons. From the United States.
4.15 Film: Decoy* (1983) British-made wartime drama about a British crew who capture a German submarine and embark on a dangerous mission. Starring Edward Judd, James Robertson Justice, Laurence Payne.
6.00 Love: First of four films presented by consultant psychiatrist Jack Dominion. Today: Love from birth to puberty. The establishment of loving relationships with parents and family. Next week: adolescence to marriage.
6.30 News from ITN.
6.40 Sunday Best: Religious entertainment. The star guest is Harry Secombe.
7.15 The Fall Guy: Drama series about a Hollywood stuntman and bounty hunter (Lee Majors).
8.15 Father Charlie: Lionel Jeffries as a cockney chaplain in a convent. Tonight: a case of lumbago that is misinterpreted as something much more serious. Anna Quaye plays the Mother Superior.
8.45 News.

9.10 Dallas: Not content with blackmailing his own brother, J. R. tries about either blackmailing or trying to ruin two other people.
10.00 News. And a round-up of the day's main sporting events.
10.15 Match of the Day: Action from two of today's football league matches.
11.15 Parkinson: With Peter Ustinov, Derek Nimmo, George Melly.

9.35 Film: Panther-Panther* (1956) The film with which Satyajit Ray made his debut as director and which instantly won him the world's most imaginative film-makers. It was the first film in Ray's Apu trilogy, a trilogy in which a young boy grows up in a rapidly changing society. Subir Banerjee plays the boy, Apu. 11.15 News: with Jan Leeming.
11.40 Midnight Movie: Payroll* (1961) British-made thriller with Billie Whitelaw avenging herself on the crooks who killed her husband in an armed robbery. Co-starring Michael Craig, Tom Bell, Kenneth Griffith and William Lucas. Director: Sidney Hayers. Ends at 1.30am.

9.00 Film: The Valdez Horse (1973) Western, starring Charles Bronson as the half-breed who runs a Mexican stud farm. Vincent Van Pattern is the teenager who runs away to live at the farm. Co-starring Jill Ireland.
10.50 OTT: Comedy and music show.
11.50 News headlines. Followed by: Johnny Carson's Tonight Show with Michael Caine and Dana Hill.
12.30 Close: Dr Anthony Starr on inspiration.

9.40 Omnibus: Interview with John Mortimer, barrister and playwright, who has just written his autobiography. He tells Barry Norman about his days with the Crown Film Unit, his work at the Bar, and his television and theatre work. We shall also hear him discuss the topic of his new play, written by Laurence Olivier in the recent ITV play. Also: a profile of the Indian dancer Alamelu Valli, fascinating exponent of a 4,000-year-old Indian temple dance.
10.30 News: with Jan Leeming.
10.40 Choices: Members of a studio audience discuss crucial decisions of conscience they made. The panel: Polly Toynbee, Lord Soper, and Norman St. John-Evans. The chairman: Libby Purves.
11.15 Never Too Late: Mature students at colleges, universities and polytechnics talk about grants and family life.
11.40 International Darts: Highlights from today's final of the Arrow chemicals British International Championship, between England and Scotland.
12.30 Weather forecast and close-down.

9.05 The Much Loved Music Show. Owen Arwel Hughes conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Choral Society by Rossini, Elgar, Holst, Berlioz, Borodin and Saini-Saunders. The soloist is Bernadette Green.
9.55 Grand Prix: Highlights of the Brazilian Grand Prix, run earlier in the day in Rio de Janeiro. The reigning world champion Nelson Piquet is among the contestants as is three-times winner Carlos Reutemann.
10.30 Winter Kills (1974) Political drama, set in the United States. It's the story of a conspiracy to assassinate a President. It stars Jeff Bridges and John Huston as son and father. There's also a guest appearance by Elizabeth Taylor. Ends at 12.00 midnight.

9.00 Around Whickers World in 25 Years: Another compilation of film clips from the wife of a cosmetic surgeon, tells how her husband gave her a new lease of life. There is also Hollywood's most powerful woman, studio chief Sherry Lansing. Butch Cassidy's sister, Lulu Parker Betenson and the San Francisco policeman who turns herself into a little old lady.
10.00 Whoops Accolades: Part two of this political satire which shows how the world could plunge heading into the final war. Tonight: more about that plot to put a Shah back on the throne.
10.30 The South Bank Show: A film about the British composer Peter Maxwell-Davies whose work divides both critics and public. Extracts from some of his works are performed.
11.30 London News. Then another in the Vet series.
12.30 Close. Dr Anthony Starr on inspiration.

6.30 News.
6.32 Farming Today.
6.50 News.
6.55 Weather and Programme News.
7.00 News.
7.10 Today's Papers.
7.15 On My Farm.
7.45 Yours Faithfully.
7.50 It's a Bargain.
7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Sport on 1.
8.45 News in Parliament.
8.57 Weather and Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Breakaway.
9.10 News.
10.05 The Week in Westminster.
10.10 Daily Services.
10.15 On the Night.
11.26 From our own Correspondent.
12.00 News.
12.05 News.
12.27 The Forry Haven (A Cue (New series)).
12.55 Weather and Programme News.
1.00 Any Questions.
2.00 News.
2.05 Play: "An Arranged Marriage" by Helena Cato.
2.25 Medicine Now.
3.00 Wildlife.
3.30 The British Souter: A History in 26 parts (v).
4.15 Footlock with Tom Vernon.
4.30 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled persons.
5.00 What Are We Doing to the Children? How does divorce and separation affect children?
5.25 Week Endish.
5.55 Weather and Programme News.
6.00 News.
6.15 Desert Island Discs. Caspary: Lord Miles.

6.55 Stop The Week with Robert Robertson.
7.35 Baker's Dozen, Richard Baker with records.
8.30 Play: "Zerk" by Harold Brightwell.
8.55 Weather.
10.15 Something to Declare. Travelers' Tales (v) To the Golden Triangle.
11.00 Lighter On Darkness.
11.15 A World in Edgeways.
11.45 Gardening at Brideshead. Reelings. By 18th Century. Landscapes at Castle Howard.
12.00 News and Weather.
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6.30 Morning Has Broken.
6.35 Weather and Travel.
7.00 News.
7.05 News.
7.10 Sunday Papers.
7.15 Sunday's Good Cause.
7.45 Weather and Travel.
8.00 News.
8.05 Sunday Papers.
8.15 Letter from America.
8.20 The Archers.
11.15 Weekend.
12.00 Smash of the Day. I'm Sorry I'll Be Late.
12.30 The Food Programme.
1.30 The World This Week.
2.00 News.
2.05 Gardeners Question Time.
2.30 Play: Riff Raff Blues by Robin Chapman.
4.00 News.
4.05 Talking About Antiques.
4.30 The Living World.
5.00 News.
5.05 Your Way to the World.
5.55 Weather and Programme News.
6.00 News.
6.15 Play: "The Case for Treason".
7.00 Travel and Programme News.
7.02 It Makes Me Laugh. Jilly presents her latest in humour.
7.30 Bookshelf.
8.00 John of Winchester. The Bishop of Winchester talks to Sir Roy Strong.
8.30 Music to Remember. Chopin, Debussy, piano recital.
9.00 News.

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FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 92-95MHz. Radio 4 MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1453kHz/205m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1	TYNE TEES	GRANADA	YORKSHIRE	GRAMPIAN	CENTRAL	GRAMPAN	TVS
BBC Cymru/Wales 5.35-5.40 pm Sports News. SCOTLAND 9.05-9.30 am May in May 5.35-5.40 pm Scoreboard 10.15-11.15 Sports News. 12.15 am News. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.15-1.45 pm Grandstand. 4.55-5.05 Scoreboard 5.35-5.40 pm South-West (Plymouth): Spotlight. Sport. All other English regions: Sport.	As London except: Starts 9.00 am 10.30 Thunderbirds. 12.13 pm-12.15 News. 5.15 News. 5.17-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.45 House Calls. 12.15 pm Three's Company. 12.35 Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.20 am Spiderman. 9.40-10.30 Thunderbirds. 5.15 pm Bugs Bunny. 5.20-6.15 Chips. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Marmite. 12.45 am Living Legends of the Blues: Blind John Davies. 1.25 Close-down.	As London except: 9.00 am-10.30 Film: Sunstroke (Henry Scobee). 2.00-2.15 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.45 That's Hollywood: Clowns 12.15 Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Sesame Street. 10.05-10.30 Joe 90. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Reflections: 11.55 Daily. with guest Kenny Rogers. 12.25 am Close-down.	As London except: 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.15 am Sesame Street. 10.05-10.30 Joe 90. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.00 am Saturday Brief. 9.05 Sesame Street. 10.00-10.30 Her's Boomer. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Barney Miller. 12.20 am Company, followed by Close-down.
CHANNEL	TSW	ANGLIA	CENTRAL	GRAMPAN	TVS	GRAMPAN	TVS
As London except: Starts 12.15 pm World of Sport. 5.15 Mork and Mandy. 5.40-6.45 Puffin's Paddock. 7.45-8.45 The Fall Guy (see Major). 11.45 Video Sports: Teardrop Explosions. 12.15 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Wheelie and the Chopper Bunch. 9.30 Saturday Show with Ian Calvert, Jon Miller and guest, B. A. Robertson. 10.30 Incredible Hulk. 11.20 Survival. 11.45 University Challenge. 12.12 pm-12.15 News. 5.15 Mork and Mandy. 5.40-6.45 Puffin's Paddock. 7.45-8.45 The Fall Guy (see Major). 11.50 Video Sports: Teardrop Explosions. 12.20 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.00 am Sesame Street. 10.00-10.30 Sport Billy. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.45 Marmite. 12.40 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.
HTV	ANGLIA	CENTRAL	GRAMPAN	TVS	GRAMPAN	TVS	TVS
As London except: Starts 9.15 am Adventures of Black Beauty. 9.40-10.20 Thunderbirds. 12.13 pm-12.15 News. 5.14 News. 5.15-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.45 Marmite. 12.40 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.00 am Sesame Street. 10.00-10.30 Sport Billy. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.45 Marmite. 12.40 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.
HTV CYMRU/WALES	SCOTTISH	GRAMPAN	TVS	GRAMPAN	TVS	GRAMPAN	TVS
As HTV West except: 9.15 am-9.40 Razzmatazz. 5.15-5.45 Sion a Sion.	As London except: Starts 9.15 am Vicky the Viking. 9.40-10.30 Thunderbirds. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 11.50 Late Call. 11.55 That's Hollywood: Sherlock Holmes. 12.20 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.
BORDER	SCOTTISH	GRAMPAN	TVS	GRAMPAN	TVS	GRAMPAN	TVS
As London except: Starts 9.35 am-10.30 Space 1999. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin. 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Me and My Camera. 9.20 Love. 10.00 About Gaele. 1.00 pm Sunday. 2.00 God's Story. 2.15 University Challenge. 2.45 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 4.30 Sportscast. 5.30 Family Fortunes. 6.00-6.30 Into the Evening. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 News. 12.30 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.	As London except: Starts 9.05 am Paint along with Nancy 9.20-9.30 Sesame Street. 5.15 pm-5.45 Mr. Merlin (Bernard Hughes). 7.45-8.45 Magnus. 11.50 Manhattan Transfer. 12.50 am Close-down.

BELL'S

SCOTCH WHISKY

SCOTLAND'S

NUMBER ONE

QUALITY

SCOTCH WHISKY



TUC seeks to block Howe's jobless scheme

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is to use its influence on the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) in an attempt to resist the government's plan for a community works scheme for the long-term unemployed.

The three TUC members of the commission have been briefed to argue at a meeting tomorrow that the scheme, announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Budget speech, has a number of serious implications adverse to the interests of trade unions and unemployed people.

A Congress House report on the plan suggests that despite the government's declaration that participation will be voluntary, ministers may be intending eventually to withhold benefits from unemployed people who do not take part.

The TUC also claims that the project, which is seen as providing 100,000 places at a cost of £150m, will be developed to "discuss terms and conditions determined by collective bargaining" and to provide "a cheap adult labour force for employers to exploit".

The discussion of the plan comes as the MSC, employers and trade unions are talking about a replacement for the much criticised Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP), which will swallow up the lion's share of government expenditure on employment measures.

An MSC task group held a conference on Saturday at the Civil Service College at Sunningdale, Berkshire, to discuss the Government's plans for a compulsory scheme for jobless school-leavers, aged 16, who would be paid £15 a week.

MSC officials have made clear that they favour a more comprehensive programme, covering those aged 17 as well, which would incorporate a total training package, including further education, apprenticeships, skills training and work experience.

Government wants to see a new programme ready for next year to replace YOP, and further meetings of the task group, comprising MSC officials and both sides of industry, are to be held shortly to solve problems in the total training package.

The MSC will have to convince the Government that the scheme is good value.

for the approximate £1,000m annual cost, and there are also legal difficulties in creating a new status of "trainees" for young people.

The Congress House report on the long-term unemployed scheme was approved last week by the TUC's employment policy and organization committee, chaired by Mr William Keys, one of the three TUC commissioners, all of whom will make their opposition clear when the commission debates the government proposals tomorrow.

The other two are Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Kenneth Graham.

The TUC argues that the community works project will create a divisive two-tier level of special provision for unemployed adults by paying them about £30 a week, including expenses, compared with wages of up to £89 a week in the Community Enterprise programme.

Payments would be unattractive, the TUC claims, because the Government would be inviting the adult unemployed to work on a community project for their unemployment benefit and a refund of expenses they incurred.

The confidential TUC paper also expresses concern that the Government is expecting local councils, as well as voluntary organizations and churches, to run community projects with volunteers from the unemployed.

It is said to be a "substitution of voluntary workers for properly recruited and paid staff in public and community services".

The TUC complains that the Government has refused to double the number of Community Enterprise programme places to 60,000, and urges the MSC to formulate proposals for improving provisions to the long-term unemployed.

In a letter to Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman, on March 9, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government fully shared concern about the plight of the long-term unemployed.

Explaining the Chancellor's announcement, Tebbit added: "Many people have pointed to the absurdity of the situation in which many people registered as unemployed would be willing to do something useful



Warm hands join to defend the peace

Wood fires were essential to keep warm and dry last night as women anti-nuclear demonstrators began a 24-hour blockade of the Royal Air Force base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire, in protest against the proposed siting of American cruise missiles. Groups of women took it in turn to sit down in the roadway, blocking the six entrance gates to the base (Peter Waymark writes).

Ms Lesley Boulton, one of the organizers, said the action was

intended to be peaceful and the women had been instructed not to resist arrest. She added that they would not try to stop children attending the American school at the base or to prevent emergency services getting through.

The protest was organized by members of a women's peace camp which was established outside the main entrance at Greenham Common last September. Some 15 women have been living there in tents and caravans. The blockade

was the climax to a festival of life at the base attended by nuclear disarmament supporters from as far afield as Scotland, Yorkshire and South Wales. Thames Valley police estimated the attendance at 5,000. Many arrived in coaches and brought babies and young children.

Throughout the day the six entrances to the base were the focus of activities including religious worship, music and dancing and poetry readings.

I did it for Britain, Mrs Whitehouse says

By Richard Evans

Protecting Britain's image abroad was one of the main reasons for Mrs Mary Whitehouse's private prosecution against the director of *Four Romans in Britain*, she said yesterday.

She reaffirmed that she does not know where she will obtain the money to pay her legal costs, which are said to run to thousands of pounds.

The trial of Mr Michael Bogdanov, the play's director, on charges of procuring and being party to a simulated act of homosexual rape between actors in the play, ended on Thursday after the Attorney General had intervened.

"The key point to what I did is that this was the

National Theatre... the theatre that belongs to all of us, which gives an image of Britain to the whole world. "I love Britain I care for what the world thinks about Britain. I do not want the world to look at what happened on the National Theatre stage and say 'Good Heavens, the British really now are in a state where they can do that on the National stage, and nobody cares'. I do care. That is why I did what I did," she said.

Mrs Whitehouse, who was interviewed on the BBC radio programme, *Sunday*, said she was not worried about the money that would be needed to pay the legal costs of her prosecution.

The hidden dangers of high blood pressure

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Between 15 and 20 per cent of adults in Britain may have high blood pressure, but because it is symptomless they are often unaware of it, a book published today says. Adults should be encouraged to have regular blood pressure checks, and machines to register blood pressure could usefully be installed in stores, airports and railway stations, it suggests.

Doctors and patients should work closely together on treatment because some drugs which control blood pressure have unpleasant side-effects, so it may be necessary to experiment with several until a suitable one is found.

The book's authors, Dr Eoin O'Brien and Professor Kevin O'Malley, codirectors of the blood pressure clinic at the Charitable Infirmary, Dublin, suggest that finding the right drug may take four or five visits. But it is worth persevering because proper and continuous treatment greatly reduces the risk of strokes and heart attacks.

Changes in life-style are also recommended. Giving up smoking is the most important, followed by weight watching and avoiding excess salt in the diet.

High Blood Pressure: What It Means For You And How To Control It (Martin Dunitz, £2.50).

NEWS IN SUMMARY

BR to run Coniston service

The National Trust's 1895 steam yacht, *Gondola*, which it restored in 1980 for more than £100,000, is to be operated on Coniston Water this year by British Rail Sealink.

Mr Laurence Harwood, the trust's regional director, said yesterday that because of heavy losses incurred by the trust in running the service for two seasons, it either had to get another organization to run it or shut down.

Sealink will manage it for a year, during which time a five-year agreement will be worked out. British Rail will carry any losses, but will share half of any profits with the trust. "We shall still own the vessel," Mr Harwood said.

Mr Glyn Morgan, Windermere's Sealink manager, said an hourly service would start in April 28.

Plea for prison library funds

The Isle of Wight County Council has told the Home Office Prison Department that unless it increases the funds for library services in the three island prisons, the present facilities may be withdrawn.

A council report says the services at Parkhurst, Albany and Camp Hill prisons cost the island four times as much as its Home Office allowance.

Raiders set fire to mansion

Burglars who stole thousands of pounds of antiques early yesterday from a seventeenth-century mansion, Rudd Hall, near Catterick, North Yorkshire, set fire to the house as they left (our York Correspondent writes).

The house was the home of the late Lt-Col. Charles Tyson and his widow, Mrs Connie Tyson, who is aged 88 and lives in a private nursing home. Two rooms were badly damaged and paintings and furniture destroyed.

Crane victim named

A man who died when he was trapped in the cab of a crane which fell into the Manchester Ship Canal on Saturday was named yesterday as Mr Leon Clowes, aged 36, of Northern Rise, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. He was married.

Laker plan 'would have failed'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

Sir Freddie Laker would not have got the licences for a People's airline for which he suddenly withdrew his application on Friday, airline experts believe, had he already written off the venture, though not the man, for the foreseeable future.

It was not just that the application by Breathe, Laker's shell company, was short of essential financial information, it lacked the necessary assets to be taken seriously at this stage.

One official commented yesterday: "In order to grant an air operator's certificate, the Civil Aviation Authority needs to satisfy itself that the applicant's staff and equipment meet the necessary standards. Breathe have neither aircraft nor staff, nor an operating base." Laker's maintenance hangars at Gatwick were taken over by British Caledonian recently.

But the CAA's hearing on May 4 will go ahead despite the withdrawal of Breathe's application for Laker's former scheduled licences to New York, Los Angeles, Florida, Zurich, and Hongkong, and his charter licences to Canada and Europe.

The purpose is to hear British Caledonian's application for Laker Airways to pick up all Laker's traffic. But British Caledonian has its hands too

Affiliation goes to Nalgo poll

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Electoral Reform Society today starts the ballot process that will decide whether 800,000-strong National and Local Government Officers' Association, the country's fourth largest union, affiliates to the Labour Party.

Union members will probably not receive their ballot papers until early next week, when they are distributed at branch level. Each member of the "town hall" union has a secret postal vote.

Campaigning on the affiliation issue has been going on in the union since last year's annual conference sanctioned the ballot, but supporters and opponents both agree about a lack of interest among traditionally moderate Nalgo members.

In spite of the apparent apathy, both groups agree that it is virtually certain the union members will decide against affiliation. Mr James White, Nalgo executive member and secretary of Fight for Labour Affiliation Group (Flag), said last night: "Anyone who imagines that on the first ballot we are going to succeed would have to be a raging optimist".

Mr White, who is one of more than 20 executive members supporting affiliation, said the aim was to keep the issue alive among

the membership in the hope that a future ballot would produce an affirmative vote. Meetings of branches in traditional militant Scottish regions, called to discuss affiliation, have been well attended, while other meetings of large branches such as Kent county have attracted only a handful of members.

The ballot will cost the union about £70,000 and Mr Michael Blick, an opponent of affiliation, last night described it as "one of the highest and most expensive non-events in the history of the union".

Mr Blick, who is chairman of the union's national local government committee covering about 500,000 town hall staff, left the Labour Party last year to join the SDP, claiming he has been mainly campaigning against the principle of affiliation rather than against forging links with the Labour Party.

Supporters of affiliation claim there is a greater awareness that jobs are disappearing from local government because of central government policies they are not able to influence.

Voting is due to be completed on April 23 and the results will be announced on May 8.

SMOKERS OBJECT TO BR BAN

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail is banning smoking in almost all its restaurants and buffet cars after a successful six-month experiment in the Western Region. Passengers who break the rule will be liable to be fined £50 and stewards are being asked to report anyone who ignores the ban. Some reserved seats will be exempt.

The decision was criticized yesterday by the Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST), which accused Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, of acting in an intolerant and patronizing manner.

Mr Stephen Eyres, director of (Forest) said: "This is part of British Rail's step by step approach to eliminate all smoking on the railways. A British Rail spokesman said yesterday: "We are following a trend. Sixty per cent of our customers are non-smokers

CHILDREN HAVE LESS TO SPEND

By a Staff Reporter

The recession is affecting children's pocket money, according to a survey conducted by Gallup for T. Wall and Sons, the ice cream company.

The average weekly pocket money for Britain's 10 million children has fallen by 16 per cent from £1.13 last year to less than 95p. Children in the north and Scotland have been most affected, seeing their average pocket money drop by 34 per cent from £1.18 to less than 79p.

Wall's has produced a pocket money monitor for the last eight years, and says that the 1982 survey is the first to show a fall.

Children in the south, like their parents, seem to be more affluent than those in the rest of Britain. Their weekly allowance has fallen by only 4 per cent, from £1.14 to £1.09 overall, the survey says, boys receive less than their sisters or girl friends.

An earlier origin for stone tools

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The world's earliest stone tools are now known to be between two and a half and three million years old, on the evidence of recent work in Ethiopia. They may well have been made by an early species of hominid called *Australopithecus africanus*, but they could also have been the work of an early type of man, *Homo habilis*.

No man-made tools have been found at hominid sites dating to before three million years ago, but after 2.5 million years ago stone and bone tools are "permanent and numerous", according to Dr Yves Coppens, of the Musée de l'Homme in Paris.

In a review of "Who Made What", presented at the Prehistoric Society yesterday, he said that on present evidence *Australopithecus africanus* existed between 2.7 and one million years ago, and had modern legs but archaic upper limbs: they could walk upright, but not manipulate objects as well as later humans.

Homo habilis could now be placed even earlier, however, on the basis of recent work by Dr Coppens and his colleagues. The Hadar region of north-east Ethiopia, and the fragmentary remains from Kanopoi in Kenya.

With an apparent beginning four million years ago, *Homo habilis*, originally dubbed "handy man" because of the fully human grip that he possessed, is an even better candidate for the first toolmaker.

The coeval hominid defined by Dr Coppens, Dr Donald Johanson and Dr Tim White in 1978 as *Australopithecus afarensis*, of which the partial skeleton known as "Lucy" is the best known specimen, should be assigned to a "pre-*Australopithecus*" status because of its archaic limb structure, Dr Coppens now feels.

The early tools from the Shungura Formation, on the Omo River in southern Ethiopia, first found in 1969, can be placed firmly between Member B of the formation, dated to three million years ago, and to a level higher than Member E at 2.2 million years. These are the tools that Dr Coppens feels "may have been made by *Australopithecus africanus*" or by *Homo habilis*.

Other tools have also been pushed back in time by recent work: the more developed Oldoway industry has been dated to 2.6 million years at Hadar, a million years earlier than its initial placement.

THE ADVERTISERS IN THIS WEEK'S RADIO TIMES MAY NOT BE HOME AND DRY. BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE HOME.

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But Radio Times has another asset, which though powerful, is perhaps more subtle.

That's its distinct character, its purposeful air. Its ambience if you like.

"I saw it in Radio Times" is tantamount to saying "it's trustworthy, it's reliable."

It's a considerable benefit. If you're just off to art advertising meeting it might benefit consideration.



For further information contact Head of Advertisement Department, BBC Publications, 35 Marlborough High Street, London W1M 4AA. Telephone: 01-580 5577.

*Source: NRS (IICNARS) October 1980-September 1981

*Source: ABC July-December 1981

NEWS IN SUMMARY

No damages in tampon case win

Denver, Colorado. — An 18-year-old girl who suffered toxic shock syndrome through tampons has won her case against the manufacturer but failed to receive the \$25m (£14m) she claimed as compensation and punitive damages.

A federal jury ruled that the Procter and Gamble company was negligent in its manufacture and sale of a defective product but it awarded no money or medical expenses to Miss Deletha Dawn Lampshire.

The jury said the company had not breached its warranty on its Rely brand tampons which were withdrawn from the market in September 1980, and could not be held for damages.

Malta and Libya improve links

Valletta. — Malta and Libya have ratified their 1976 agreement to take their offshore oil exploration dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The agreement was a result of the unexpected meeting between Colonel Gaddafi and Mr Don Mintoff ten days ago, which eased the strained relations between the two governments which have existed since 1980. Trade and diplomatic relations are now expected to return to normal.

New bones find in Antarctica

Washington. — Scientists have discovered the first bones of a land mammal in Antarctica, the National Science Foundation said, strengthening the evidence that South America and Antarctica were linked in prehistoric times.

The foundation, which finances and manages American scientific activities in Antarctica, said that the bones of a rat-like mammal were found in a graveyard of strange prehistoric skeletons, which included those of 6ft penguins, a 40ft plesiosaur, a marine reptile, and a mosasaur, a lizard with paddle-like limbs.

Seven killed in south Lebanon

Sidon. — At least seven people have been killed and 10 injured in clashes between rival militias in the Southern Village of Ayn Qana, travellers said. Security sources said the hostilities were between the Amad Shiite muslim paramilitary organization and supporters of the pro-Iraq Baath Party.

Schmidt's party Loses heavily in Saxony poll

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 21

Herr Helmut Schmidt's strident Social Democrats (SPD) suffered severe losses in today's lower Saxony Land elections, seen here as an important test of West Germany's political mood.

The first results showed that the Christian Democrats, who hope to take over from the chancellor's frayed 12-year-old coalition as soon as possible, were heading for an absolute majority.

The Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) who fell below the 5 per cent minimum needed for representation last time, seemed assured of seats in the new parliament while the ecological Green Party also looks likely to be represented.

The first computer forecasts, based on about one third of the voting districts, forecast a loss of around 6 per cent for the Chancellor's party, from 42 per cent to 36.3 per cent. The Christian Democrats, who last time polled 48.7 per cent, won around 51 per cent, so that they will be able to rule without a coalition partner. The Free Democrats were said to have gained more than 2 per cent to achieve 6.7 per cent and the Greens were also up by nearly 2 per cent to 5.7 per cent.

The result could well encourage the Free Democrats to think even harder about leaving the Social Democrats and moving over to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats in Bonn. Political observers have predicted that they could even take the step this year rather than wait for the next Bundestag elections in 1984.

The Lower Saxony poll is the first of four Land elections this year whose results could affect the future of Herr Schmidt's Government.

Apart from the severe psychological blow to the Social Democrats, it could also mean serious trouble for the SPD-FDP coalition in Bonn. The Lower Saxony Christian Democrats could use their vote in the Bundestag, the upper house in Bonn, to block an early increase in value added tax needed to finance the Government's job creation scheme.

The VAT increase was agreed on with great difficulty by the coalition parties and it will be extremely hard for them to find another solution acceptable to both.

The results also amount to a huge personal victory for Herr Ernst Albrecht, the popular and successful Lower Saxony Prime Minister, and will strengthen his position as a rival to Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democrat Party chairman, as a future Chancellor.

The results appear to confirm the trend that the SPD are losing the votes of younger people to the Greens and other alternative groups.



Mount St Helens erupts twice in six hours

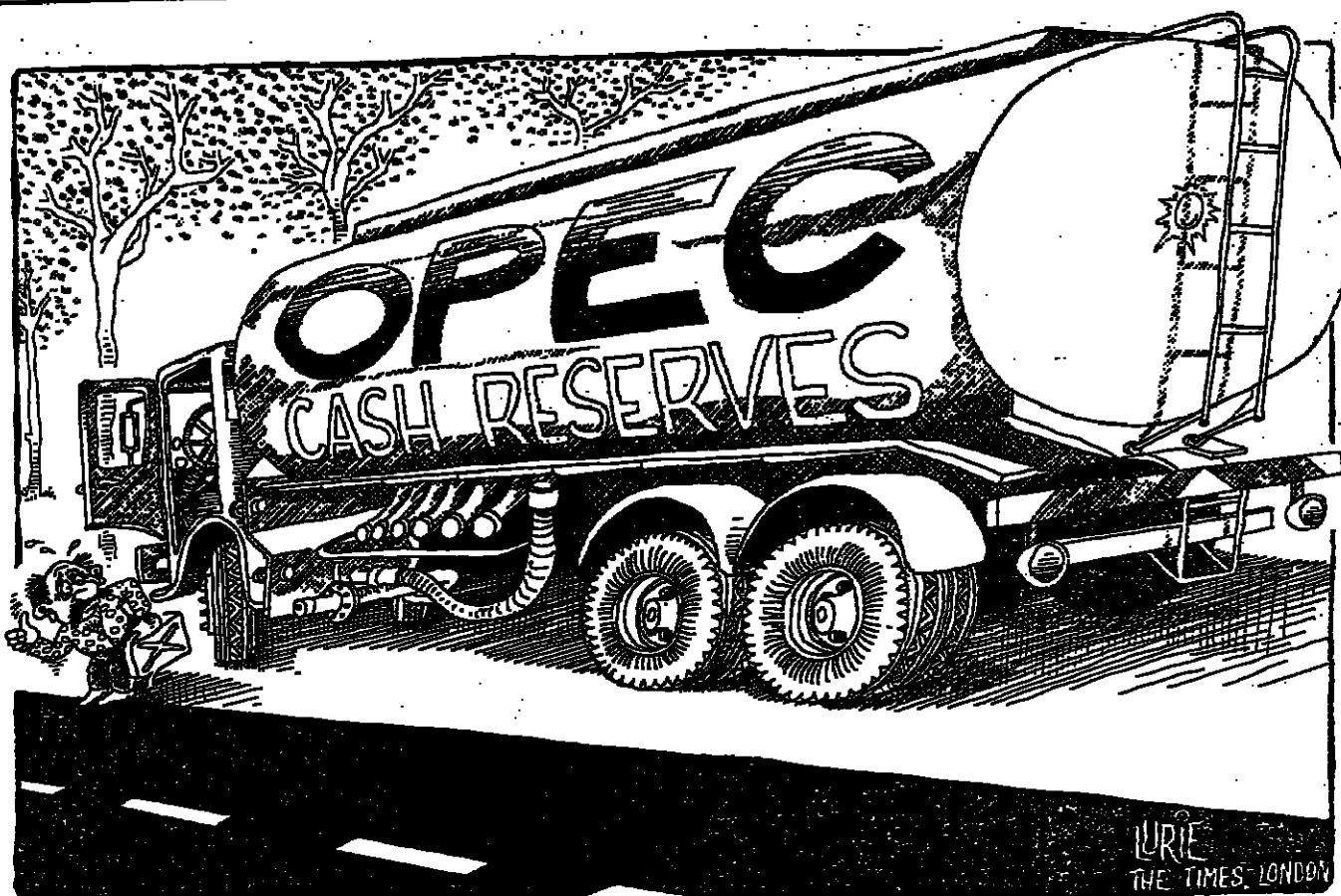
From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, March 21

This is somewhat in between the explosive eruptions in 1980 and the non-explosive eruptions in 1981.

He said scientists were "in the dark" until they got a look at the dome and saw what happened. It could take until Tuesday before they could answer with confidence, he added.

Mount St Helens erupted in May, 1980, claiming 61 lives. After the last two eruptions, officials fearing that heat from the volcano might cause a rapid melting of snow and serious flooding, ordered the evacuation of more than 70 families living along the Toutle river, north of the volcano.

Mr Bill Chadwick, of the United States geological survey team said after a visit to the site: "I think, overall



Central America flashpoint

Duarte pledge on murdered news team

San Salvador, March 21. — President Jose Napoleon Duarte has promised to investigate personally the killing of four Dutch journalists on March 17.

He said that he believed an Army report that they died in a clash between left-wing guerrillas and security forces, but he would go to the scene of the killing to conduct his own inquiries. He invited journalists to accompany him.

President Duarte said it was difficult to guarantee the safety of anyone in a country at war — especially journalists who constantly crossed sides. He said that reporters were as much in danger with guerrillas as with the security forces because no one was safe when the two sides shot at each other.

Three Brazilian journalists who said they were shot at by soldiers on Friday left the country yesterday, saying they were frightened to stay.

The President also said that intelligence reports indicated that the guerrillas planned to intensify their activities from Wednesday in an attempt to disrupt the elections next Sunday.

Guerrillas yesterday attacked the town of Triunfo in Usulután, 75 miles east of San Salvador. They killed two civil defence guards and set fire to the town hall, several houses and buses before fleeing, according to military sources.

Guerrillas also cut the important coastal road 50 miles from San Salvador, delaying traffic for several hours. The coastal road and the Pan-American Highway are the only roads running the length of El Salvador. —Reuter.

Washington: the State Department, continuing its campaign to prove that left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador are under outside control, this weekend produced an 11-page report showing the extent of Cuba's and Nicaragua's role in the Salvadoran insurgency (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The paper did not, however, include any of the sensitive intelligence material that has been made available to certain congressional committees. A result, the report contained little new information, and was instead intended to describe the general pattern of outside support for El Salvador's guerrillas, including arms supply, training, command and control.

Presenting the document during an annual Saturday press briefing Mr Dean Rusk, the State Department spokesman, defended the decision not to make intelligence information available to the public. "Were it to be released," he said, "the United States Government would lose access to critical information, and might risk the lives of some brave people who believe it is important that the Government know what is going on."

Two Dutch journalists who returned to the Netherlands on Sunday from El Salvador emphatically denied that their four colleagues were killed in an exchange of fire between government troops and guerrillas (Robert Scull writes).

Mr Hans van Gerven, a radio reporter, and Mr Rene de Bok of Elsevier Magazine farmers living in the area where the four men were killed said that they had not heard the 40-minute exchange of gunfire said to have taken place by the government.

Mr van Gerven, who identified the bodies of the four men when they were brought to San Salvador on Thursday, said that they seemed to have been starved to death. As far as he was concerned, his four colleagues were "simply murdered."

Mr William Vergeer, the Dutch deputy leader of the Christian Democrat group in the European Parliament, said on Sunday that he would not be going to El Salvador as an observer for the elections on March 28.

Mr Vergeer, who would have been the only Dutch observer, said that, after the killing of the four journalists, he had grave doubts about whether he would be able to operate freely as an observer.

Despite these constraints, the report reveals that the United States had received information that President Fidel Castro of Cuba ordered an increase three months ago in arms shipments to the Salvadoran insurgents, in an effort to disrupt next weekend's elections there. Extreme left-wing groups throughout Central America were mobilized to support the effort.

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The arms flow to the rebels had been by both land and sea routes, the paper said, in addition to vitally needed ammunition, recent guerrilla supply operations had included greater quantities of more sophisticated, heavier weapons. These included M60 machine guns, 57-mm recoilless rifles and M72 anti-tank weapons. Three Nicaraguan ships — the Monimbo, Aracely and Nicaragua — were identified as transporters of weapons.

The document revealed for the first time that the Administration believed that the Papalóna airfield, northwest of Managua, had been used for airlifting and storing arms. The airfield has been extended from a small agricultural strip to a runway 3,600 ft long, with three parking aprons and six storage hangars.

The paper also describes what is identified as the Salvadoran guerrilla command and control centre, near Managua. It said the headquarters were extremely sophisticated, and coordinated logistical support for the guerrillas throughout El Salvador.

Managua: Government forces arrested and expelled at least 19 Jehovah's Witnesses on Saturday. Relatives in the United States were told by American consular officials that they had been flown to either Panama or Costa Rica (AP reports).

The American Embassy in Managua said it was investigating, and had asked the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry for an explanation.

Guatemala City: Twenty-nine bodies, almost all with bullet wounds and signs of torture, were found in various parts of Guatemala in the last 24 hours (Reuters reports).

Police said that villagers discovered the bullet-riddled bodies of 11 Indians in a common grave in a deep ravine near the western Guatemalan town of Chimaltenango.

Another 12 corpses, some with slit throats and showing signs of torture as well as gunshot wounds, were found by local authorities in San Antonio in the south-eastern province of Suchitepéquez. Police said that the dead were identified as peasants from the Pacific coast.

Rome: The Pope today recalled the murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in El Salvador two years ago, and prayed for a peaceful solution to that country's problems (AP reports).

"March 24 will be the second anniversary of the death of Romero a defenceless victim The Pope said.

Tricky question: President Duarte of El Salvador facing a press conference on Saturday. He promised protection for journalists, but refused to guarantee their safety if they travel with the guerrillas.

Shuttle off today on big venture for science

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The third flight of Columbia, the reusable American spacecraft, is due to start from Cape Canaveral at 3pm British time today. Although strictly speaking it is another test flight for the new vehicle, the crew of Colonel Jack Lousma, the mission commander, and his pilot, Colonel Charles Walker, have on board a 21st cargo of scientific equipment.

It consists of none instrument packages designed to yield important data for astronomers, biologists, medical scientists and plasma physicists and for engineers paving the way for future scientific journeys in orbit.

The plan is for a seven-day flight, the longest so far, with a landing at White Sands, New Mexico. The original landing site in California cannot be used because of flooding in the heavy rains.

Another innovation is the first use of the mechanical arm, built in Canada, for lifting a package of experimental apparatus out of the orbiter and into space. The long-term usefulness of the shuttle depends to a large extent on the success of this manipulator arm. So at 44 hours of work is beginning with the arm unloaded to give the crew experience in controlling its robot-like movements.

The practical application, lasting about 14 hours, will involve manoeuvring the group of instruments called the plasma diagnostic package. What that apparatus will do is measure how the orbiter spacecraft interacts with its surroundings in space.

Measurements will be made of electric and magnetic fields within 45ft of the vehicle, the characteristics of electromagnetic waves will be recorded over a broad range of frequencies, and so will the characteristics of an electron beam produced by a special electron gun called a fast pulse generator.

The timetable for operating the robot arm allows 23 hours for thermal testing. On this mission the spacecraft will be exposed to extremes of temperature which have been avoided on previous journeys.

The spacecraft will be subjected to temperatures ranging from 93 degrees centigrade to minus 66 degrees. Under these conditions the hull of Columbia is expected to heat, like a car, about two degrees along its entire length. This is because the vehicle will be extremely hot on one side facing the sun, and bitterly cold on the side in shadow.

In addition to the large scientific payload planned by the Office of Space Science, and hence called OSSA, Columbia has a cylindrical canister, created by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a new scheme dubbed the "getaway special programme". It is intended to attract more customers to acquire space for their cargo on future flights.

The canister will allow anyone to fly an experiment on the shuttle orbiter, provided the experiment is of a scientific research and development nature.

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If you like surprises, you'll love Simpson

...and their sparkling new approach to clothes. Left: DAKS suit in pure new wool, £165. DAKS shirt and tie, £38 and £14.50. Her pullover £75 and bermuda shorts £49, blouse £45. All by Escada, sizes 10-16.

Above right: frilled dress with horizontal pattern, £189; striped dress with sash, £165. Both by Dejavu, sizes 8-14.

Below right: her Invertere raincoat comes in almond green, cream or pale grey, £75, his in grey or ivory, £79.

Extremists climb aboard the Treurnicht wagon

From Michael Hornsby, Pretoria, March 21

The extreme right wing secured a strategic beachhead in South African politics with the launching here at the weekend of the Conservative Party of South Africa under the leadership of Dr Treurnicht, who was expelled from the ruling National Party (NP) along with 15 other rebel MPs earlier this month.

Speaking to some 7,000 fervent supporters packed into a hall in the agricultural showground here, Dr Treurnicht denounced the government's plans for limited power-sharing between whites, coloureds (those of mixed race) and Indians, and called for a return to the racial rigidities of the Verwoerd era.

His audience, mainly middle and lower-middle class whites, frequently burst into thunderous applause, rising to their feet and waving South African flags. It was one of the biggest political rallies seen in South Africa for many years.

Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister can draw some consolation from Dr Treurnicht's failure so far to win the support of Mr Jaap Marais's Herstigte Nasionale party (HNP), which broke away from the NP in 1969 (in part over the issue of racially mixed sport).

Scattered among the audience were also members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, an openly fascist, paramilitary organisation, consciously modelled on the Nazi party, which advocates seizure of power by military force failing success by the ballot box.

The most important right-wing figure to pledge support for Dr Treurnicht at yesterday's rally was Dr Connie Mulder, the disgraced former Information Minister and one-time contender for the premiership. He came to the platform to announce to cheers that his small National Conservative Party, which like the HNP has no parliamentary seats, would be merging with Dr Treurnicht's new party.

Two other small far-right groups also allied themselves with Dr Treurnicht: the Aksies Eie Toekoms (Action Own Future), led by Professor Alkmaar Swart, which advocates the creation of a white "homeland" from the economically most viable parts of South Africa from which all blacks would be banished, and the little-known South Africa First campaign, an English-speaking group led by Mr Brendan Wimmer.

On March 25, 1957 the European Economic Communities were created with the signing of the Treaty of Rome. This is the first of three articles from Ian Murray in Brussels to mark their first quarter century.

The European Communities celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary this week with about as much enthusiasm as a beekeeper in a vegetarian restaurant. A minor poster campaign, a few seminars and a jubilee dinner for a couple of hundred celebrities are all there are to mark a quarter of a century of joint European endeavour.

It is embarrassing that the anniversary comes at a time when Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, has just felt himself obliged to warn Europe that it is in danger and when politicians in most member states have been facing p to what they call the worst crisis the EEC has ever known.

Embarrassing though it may be, it is nevertheless appropriate and typical that Europe should be in crisis as it marks up its silver jubilee. To judge by its newspaper image the EEC stumbles from one crisis to the next.

It is, however, true that crisis has, so far, often been creative. Many of the main political initiatives have been

taken with the crisis-grip pointed at members heads. As Lord Carrington sadly pointed out last year when he was President of the Council: "Europe only ever takes decisions at the last possible moment."

That has been throbproblem which has dogged the Community from its inception: it is not something which arrived an years ago with Britain. As the 1968 general report complained: "it is unacceptable that important problems should remain unsolved for years on end. There is nothing to be gained by retarding or blocking decisions which will eventually have to be adopted anyway."

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KEEP IT local

fixed in law, there is already in existence a

THE ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES, 36 OLD QUEEN STREET LONDON SW 1 R, THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES, REPRESENTING A LARGE NUMBER OF ENGLISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, IN THE BELIEF THAT YOU SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED

Polish journalist braves arrest to attack ban

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 21

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, one of Poland's leading journalists and a prominent Marxist reformer, emerged from hiding this weekend and promptly attacked the decision of the martial law authorities to dissolve the Polish journalists' association.

Mr Bratkowski's appearance after over three months of moving from flat to flat to avoid detention (though it is still not clear whether there is a warrant for his arrest) comes at a time of intense controversy over the role of journalists in Poland.

As president of the association during the Solidarity era in 1980-1981, Mr Bratkowski helped to shape it into one of the most radical reformist organizations, constantly urging the authorities to ease censorship and democratize society.

However, the martial law authorities announced on Saturday that they had dissolved the association because some of its leaders "openly sided with undertakings of extremist anti-socialist groupings, going so far as to publish tendentious accusations levelled against state authority".

This is partly a reference to articles that Mr Bratkowski has managed to smuggle out to the West since martial law was imposed. The dissolution came after an obviously orchestrated two-week campaign, during which Communist Party journalists on a Poznan newspaper, on *Trybuna Ludu*, the party daily, and from television sought the scrapping of the association.

Mr Bratkowski, in a statement made available to *The Times* and another Western reporter, described the dissolution of the union as "the crowning blow in the series of unjustified and illegal repressive actions directed at our profession over the past few months".

Journalists were being subjected to a humiliating process of political vetting, Mr Bratkowski said. The association had, he said, fought against "the brutal exploitation of the mass media as a crude instrument of propaganda".

"Today, those in power have again made propaganda into a crisis-generating element in our society. They are trying to do it through us, the journalists and thus destroy the credibility that we managed to build up for the mass media over the past year".

The statement was signed by other leading journalists, including Mr Machiej Szumowski, ousted editor of the *Cracow* party daily.

The decision to dissolve the association has bitterly divided the Polish journalistic community which, along with judges and university teachers, has been one of the most vulnerable under martial law. But Mr Bratkowski has been able to do little more than appeal to his colleagues not to cooperate with any new, neutered journalists' union.

Not to join the new union may well mean journalists being denied jobs and livelihoods, something likely to undermine resistance.

Both sides of the journalistic community — those who support martial law and those who want to continue criticizing it — are due to meet on Tuesday. Mr Bratkowski, though he still evidently fears the possibility of being detained, is expected to attend and argue the case for a press that is relatively independent of Communist Party control.

Mr Bratkowski originally supported the policies of Mr Stanislaw Kania, the former party chief and General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the current leader. However, after a clash between militia and Solidarity in Bydgoszcz a year ago, he and other journalists grew more critical. Eventually, some weeks before martial law was declared, he was thrown out of the Communist Party and the authorities tried briefly to create an alternative journalist union. Both bodies were suspended after December 13.

Sitar and science for Gandhi

By David Cross

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, arrived in London last night for a five-day visit which she hopes will help to foster a better relationship with her country's former colonial masters.

Certainly the occasion for her visit, the opening of a seven-month celebration of India's cultural heritage, should help to focus attention on the positive rather than the negative aspects of the long ties between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi hopes that the many exhibitions showing the arts, sciences and other disciplines will help to make India better understood by the British.

The visit begins with several hours of talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher. The Festival of India is to be launched with a concert at the Festival Hall to be attended by both Prime Ministers.

The programme will include the European premiere of Ravi Shankar's second concerto for the sitar played by the composer. The concert will be followed by a British Government reception.

Tomorrow after talks with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Gandhi will visit a number of exhibitions, including a permanent biographical exhibition of Nehru and a show mainly of sculptures and paintings from the third century BC to the nineteenth century at the Hayward Gallery.

On Wednesday, after a press conference, Mrs Gandhi will lunch with the Queen and open a Science in India exhibition at the Science Museum in Kensington.

Thursday and most of Friday will be spent in private.

□ Delhi: A powerful Soviet military delegation has completed a week's visit here, leaving the impression that Moscow is keen to continue as the leading arms supplier to a less-than-eager India.

The picture emerged from official statements, local news reports and comments of Indian officials and foreign diplomats as Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, three deputy ministers and 30 Generals left for Moscow.

An Indian Government statement said that Marshal Ustinov had assured India about the Soviet desire to continue and strengthen cooperation "in the field of supply of defence equipment by the Soviet Union and in the development of defence production industry in India."

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Leading article, page 11
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Afghanistan two years later



French at the front: Dr Jean-Louis Hermann, a French doctor working for Aide Medicale Internationale, examining a guerrilla fighter in the Loghar region of Afghanistan.

Soviet 'atrocities' condemned by doctors

From Edward Girardet, Paris

For the past year and a half, three French medical organizations have been discreetly operating clandestine relief missions in the mountainous valleys of resistance-held Afghanistan. In recent weeks, they have become increasingly outspoken against what they consider to be atrocities against the civilian population by the Soviet occupation forces.

At present, the Paris-based Madesins sans Frontières (MSF), Aide Medicale Internationale (AMI) and Medecins du Monde (MDM), whose medical teams are active in war zones elsewhere in the world including Cambodia, Kurdistan and El Salvador, are the only Western humanitarian groups to work inside Afghanistan on a permanent basis.

About 25 volunteer men and women, mainly French but with a sprinkling of Belgians and Swiss, are now running clinics, dispensaries and itinerant aid programmes in eight different provinces at any one time for periods of up to six months.

Originally, the French organizations had hoped that by keeping their activities low key and consisting primarily of providing basic health care in the insurgent-controlled areas — the Russians would leave them alone. But the presence of foreign doctors among the Afghans is known to irritate the regime. Not only do they serve as morale boosters for the resistance but also as constant witnesses to conditions inside the country.

Three French-run hospitals in the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, the Haxarajat and Paktya provinces were suddenly attacked by Soviet MIGs and helicopters over a two-day period last November. Medical staff and patients narrowly escaped.

Regarding this as a deliberate intimidation tactic, the doctors of MSF and AMI decided to publicly upbraid the Russians by explaining their position to the media. They said that they were also deeply concerned by an upsurge in recent months of communist attacks against towns and villages intended to demoralize the local population and deny support to the guerrillas.

The French doctors have not come across any direct evidence of chemical warfare by the Russians but have heard numerous reports from Afghans that point to its use. Some victims, they said, bore traces such as blackened skin, blisters and other symptoms that seemed to suggest chemical attacks.

In one case, the doctors examined a male victim with body burns which they said could have come from napalm or a similar chemical.

"The Russians have been conducting a reign of terror," said Dr Claude Malhuret, executive director of MSF. "We feel it is now up to world public opinion to pressure the Russians into stopping such atrocities."

Western military analysts have also recently drawn attention to what they feel to be a more brutal attempt by the Russians to crush resistance.

Returning French teams in some cases have been able to provide first-hand evidence of communist bombardments and military incursions.

One AMI team, which returned earlier this month after spending the winter in the Panjshir valley, north of Kabul, said that they had seen 13 aerial attacks since December. French doctors were also present when an estimated 15,000 Soviet and Afghan troops launched an offensive against the valley in early autumn.

More recently, the team said, they had retreated severely injured Afghans during an 11-day sweep in early February by mainly Soviet troops in Kohistan at the mouth of the Panjshir valley. According to Marie-Paul Solleir, an AMI nurse, local resistance leaders and refugees had told them that more than 1,000 civilians and guerrillas had been killed, including at least 400 Afghans executed by the Russians. She said that according to the report they had recovered most of them were machine-gunned by they also took 15 white-bearded old men from a village called Bulareh, doused them with petrol and burned them.

With most Afghan doctors having fled the country or living in the communist-occupied towns, perhaps as many as eight million Afghans in the resistance-held regions are forced to rely on this small, scattered handful of foreign doctors for medical care.

Relying primarily on public donations for support, the organizations are trying to send more missions to Afghanistan. At the moment there are no British doctors working inside Afghanistan but the French have been keen to combine efforts with other countries.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors in Japan and Italy

An earthquake in Japan has injured at least 80 people and in southern Italy thousands panicked after strong tremors struck the region.

Six of the Japanese casualties were seriously hurt when a severe earthquake shook Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, disrupted rail services for three hours.

In southern Italy the strong tremors sent thousands of people fleeing panic-stricken from the streets throughout the region. The area was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Soviet Politburo, was named among Kremlin officials who signed an obituary for a wartime hero, thereby ending speculation in the West that he may have been dropped from the party leadership.

Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the past six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say that the 75-year-old politician, who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wander Lake, Illinois — search crews, crossing snowy fields on foot and horseback have recovered the bodies of all 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night.

Those killed were the four crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

Salisbury — Mrs Sally Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than two months in a London Hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported on the Danish island of Funen (Christopher Follett writes). About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports — largely pork — are affected.

There were no difficulties over meat exports to EEC countries, in particular Britain, Denmark's biggest customer.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

Tehran — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties, Iran state radio reported.

The ayatollah, who is 62 and has a heart condition, tried to take a break last month. He returned to public life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo — With the prospect of general elections or a provincial election this year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mr Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will be one and indivisible under my leadership."

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia — Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service and a senior government accountant for the alleged embezzlement of public funds. The Liberian leader, who is the army commander, will supervise security services.

Western pressure failed to shift Russia

By Our Foreign Staff

The West must never allow the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan to be forgotten, Lord Carrington said yesterday.

After the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the world had gradually come to accept the situation in these countries as normal, he told a radio interviewer. But with Afghanistan, the world must continually bear in mind that the situation was unacceptable and do what it could to turn it round.

During the interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Lord Carrington conceded that Western diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not had the desired effect of forcing a withdrawal of its armed forces. Some 90,000 Soviet troops remained in the country.

But he was confident that the sharp reaction in the United Nations, where 116 countries had condemned the Soviet intervention, had acted as a brake on the Soviet Union in Poland. The Western proposal to ask for a Soviet withdrawal and designate Afghanistan as neutral territory remained on the table, he said.

He said he hoped that a combination of continuing diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union and the unflagging guerrilla war in Afghanistan would eventually force Moscow to change its mind.

He pointed out that the Afghan insurgents were not asking to receive arms supplies although he declined to say which countries were providing them.

In Brussels, the need for political support for the people of Afghanistan was emphasized by Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, in a statement to mark the first "Afghanistan Day." He said that all countries who subscribe to the principles of freedom and self-determination for the Afghan people should use their influence to end the Soviet interference in the country.

Afghanistan Day, an idea suggested by the European Parliament, won support from President Reagan earlier this month.

In Delhi, about 500 Afghan refugees held a two-hour demonstration outside the Soviet Embassy. Some refugees later joined an anti-Soviet rally organized by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. A declaration by the organization to mark Afghanistan Day regretted that the international community was a "silent spectator" of events in Afghanistan.

In neighbouring Pakistan, where 2.6 million Afghan refugees have fled, special radio and television programmes were broadcast and Afghan insurgent groups held rallies denouncing the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In Moscow, the Soviet press called the West's observance of Afghanistan Day an "infamous spectacle" and accused the United States and Pakistan of doing all they could to prevent a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet reports from Kabul spoke of 100,000 demonstrators taking part in a protest meeting outside the American Embassy and quoted Afghan politicians and clergy condemning Afghanistan Day as outright support for counter-revolution.

According to Tass, President Babrak Karmal told a party conference that Washington expressed "continual concern for the Afghan people but this showed itself in the violation of international law, encouragement of terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the attempt to aggravate tension in the region."

But he asserted that in spite of rebel attacks, important social and economic changes had been carried out since the 1978 revolution which brought the Marxists to power.

Khmers slip away as Vietnamese advance

From David Watts Singapore, March 21

The Vietnamese Army has occupied two of the principle nationalist resistance villages in Cambodia, as its dry season offensive approaches a climax.

Fighters of Mr Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KNLF) have melted away into the jungle in the face of the advancing Vietnamese, who had previously concentrated on the Khmer Rouge in their biggest operation since they entered the country in 1979.

The KNLF claim that casualties from the villages of Sokh Sann One and Two have been minimal since Vietnamese forces moved into the main concentrations of Mr Sann's followers, centred on four villages, in the early hours of Thursday. Confirmation of the attack and occupation came only at the weekend. The area is closed to foreign journalists, and a spokesman for the KNLF hinted that even Cambodians have been prevented from going to the area by the Thai military.

The Vietnamese operation has forced about 8,000 Cambodian civilians to flee the two villages. Some 500 are thought to have escaped into Thailand. The KNLF reported one dead and more than a dozen wounded.

Since the middle of January, the Vietnamese have been staging a large-scale pincer movement, using their 75 and 9 divisions to squeeze Khmer Rouge positions in the region of Phnom Penh. Until the latter half of last week there had been no attacks on KNLF forces, which are a much less effective military force than the Khmer Rouge.

In contrast to the fighting against the KNLF, it appears that the fighting against the Khmer Rouge has been costly to both sides. The Vietnamese, struggling against the Khmer Rouge's well-fortified mountain strongholds, have suffered as many as 1,500 dead and wounded, and lost seven tanks, while one Western analyst estimates that the Khmer Rouge have lost 600 dead and wounded.

The KNLF said they had lost little in the way of equipment in the Vietnamese attack, since they had managed to get most of the weapons and ammunitions out.

Infiltrators blamed for riots in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 21

Admiral Sudomo, the Indonesian head of security, today blamed the pro-Golkar Party for lack of security at a rally on Thursday which erupted into violence and arson leaving at least 60 people injured and scores of cars burning. But he said the general election campaign would continue.

Admiral Sudomo, giving his first briefing to the foreign press since the riots, said that the authorities had discovered that a group of about 100 Muslim Party supporters had infiltrated the rally in Benteng Square, Central Jakarta, carrying stones and wearing Golkar tee-shirts. However, even after interrogation of the 240 arrested, some of them school children, the people who started the riot had not yet been identified.

"Golkar took no security measures at all," Admiral Sudomo said. "The PPP (Muslim Development Party) rally on Monday was peaceful. Thursday's riots were a small wave in a big ocean and what happened in Jakarta was not a reflection of the situation throughout Indonesia."

The situation in the provinces outside Jakarta was generally quiet with a "predictable" number of Golkar Party posters being torn down and mutilated. The campaign would continue and mass rallies would not be banned, he said. "If we did ban them, the opposition would accuse us of using the incident of being non-democratic."

However, future rallies in Jakarta would be held in a sports stadium — not in public squares — and it was possible that the Government would consider the advisability of mass rallies during future general election campaigns.

He continued to deny reports of deaths during the rioting, claiming that such reports were "rumours spread for political purposes."

Admiral Sudomo said the infiltrators were from Jakarta, not outside the city, that they were Muslim Party supporters but not members of the Muslim Party which last year carried Jakarta in the elections. The intent he said was to "destabilize the Government".

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Remors hit Japan and Italy

1 earthquake in Japan injured at least 80 people in southern Italy. The tremor struck the region of the Japanese case. A severe earthquake hit Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. The tremor, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, caused landslip which disrupted services for three hours. Southern Italy the is of people fleeing taken into the streets throughout the region. The was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow. — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Soviet Politburo, was named an obituary for a time hero, thereby making speculation in the West that he may have been dropped from the party leadership. Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the last six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say he was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, but was unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wonder Lake, Illinois — Search crews, crossing snowdrifts on foot and horseback, have recovered the bodies of 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night. Those killed were the four crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

Salisbury. — Mrs Sibusiso Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than 10 months in a London hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. In Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen. — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported in the Danish island of Funen. (Christopher Follett writes) About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports are affected. There were no difficulties over meat exports to 10 countries in particular: Britain, Denmark's largest customer.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

Tehran. — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties. The state radio reported. The ayatollah, who is 66 and has a heart condition, tried to take a month's rest after he returned to public life after 10 days when he was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

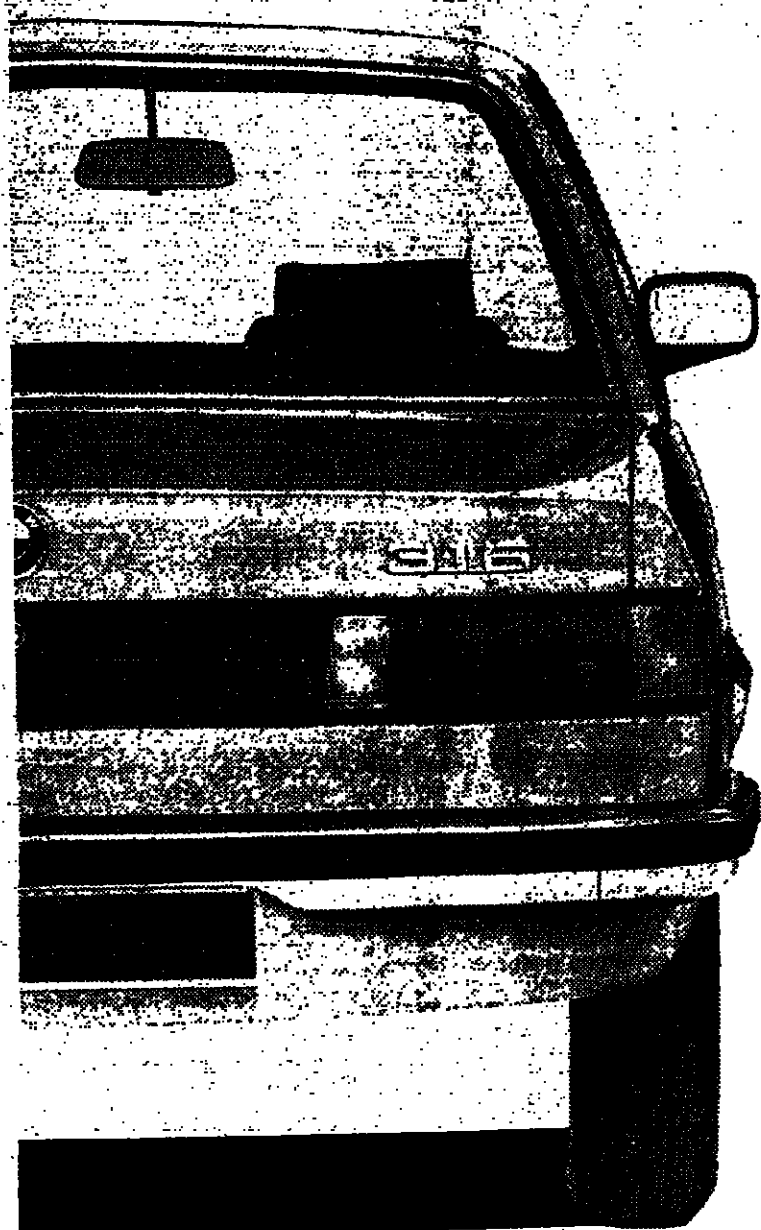
Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo. — With the prospect of general elections next year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Kumara Bandaranaike, have resolved their differences and Mrs Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth we will be one and indivisible under my leadership."

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia. — Samuel Doe, Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service, a senior government official, for alleged embezzlement of public funds. Doe, a Liberian leader, who is also the army commander, will supervise security service.

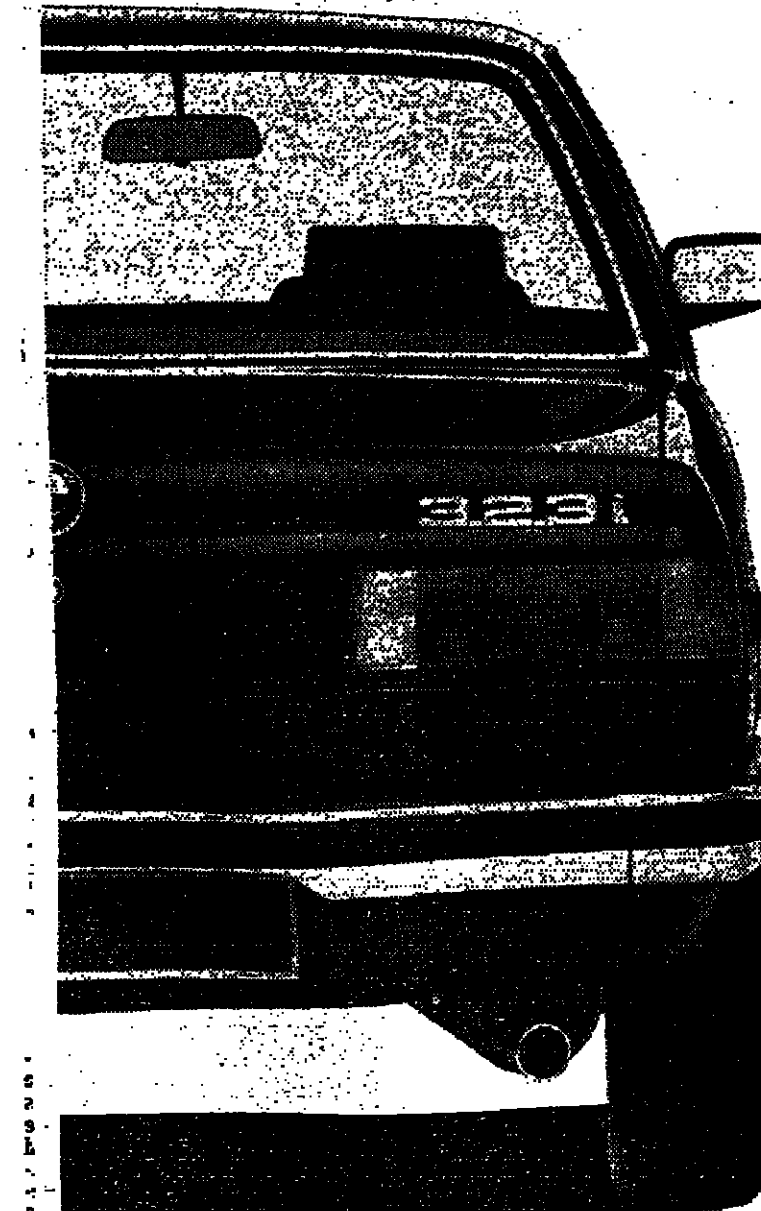
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Empress Indira, secure but suspicious

Last night Mrs Gandhi arrived in London to open the Festival of India. Trevor Fishlock profiles the woman who rules a fifth of the world's population.

Mrs Gandhi likes Britain. There are scars but no residue of bitterness from the independence struggle which she turned into her life and helped stoke tensions in the extraordinary family that shaped her.

When she first went to Britain as a young woman she was already committed to the struggle, and to the sari, her largely westernized life and her family's burning western clothes on a nationalist pyre years before. She herself had cremated a doll, beloved but British.

She studied at Oxford and was courted by a British officer, but her future husband, Feroze Gandhi, before returning to India in 1941. The following year, to her relief, she was arrested at gunpoint by a British police sergeant and jailed, thereby earning freedom fighter colours. Her flower-like fragility led the prison doctor to prescribe her Ovaltine, but the spiteful prison superintendent ensured she did not get it.

The frail shy girl of the 1940s is now a resilient flyweight of 64, 5ft 3in and 7st 7lb. Prime Minister, mother figure and empress to 700 millions, a fifth of the world.

Like Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Gandhi has immense stamina. She works to the small hours and rises with the dawn chorus at No. 1 Safdarjung Road in Delhi. She is a sparring but not a warrior, with a liking for Italian cooking, a teetotaler with no objection to others drinking, her trimness aided by daily yoga and her calm by flower arranging.

By nature she is restrained, introspective in the way of many Kashmiri Brahmins. Her large eyes have a melancholic quality. She is never wordy, never suffused with adrenalin, and rarely shows ire.

Her personality is the snub, a regal chilling silence. Her silences, as could be testified by ex-President Nixon, whom she disliked, can be disconcerting. More than one political or press interviewer has foundered under her monosyllabic answers. She is careful with words, as if words, like people, may betray her.

Her personality is marked by suspicion and insecurity, which stem from her experience in politics and an expectation that people will disappoint or try to use her. More deeply, they are the product of an anxious childhood with an adored mother, who died young, and an emotionally buttoned-off and absent father. Her marriage did not bloom. She became her father's hostess and was apart from her husband, a journalist and MP, who died in 1960.

Her experience has made her a loner. She is reticent, watchful, mistrustful, resentful of criticism, passionately determined to be independent and always in command, finding difficulty in making friends.

She has seen to it that her collaborators do not grow powerful. She does not quarry the seam of Indian ability she rightly boasts of. The Congress, no longer a movement, barely a party, offers no avenues for challengers. In foreign policy, too, she holds the cards. She could say with some truth, in a language she speaks well, "L'Inde, c'est moi".

She travelled widely with her father and was privy to his talks with other leaders. But she does not possess his dreamy idealism, being more hard-headed. "She has few peers," Henry Kissinger wrote, "in the clouded calculation of the elements of power".

Dear Sir Keith

On February 5 in these columns I wrote you an open letter about the Government's policy towards the universities. On February 10 you graciously published a reasoned reply. In the light of that, I believe it is in the public interest that the debate continue. My fundamental premise is that the enforced decline in student numbers — in contrast to the cuts in cash — is profoundly against the public interest.

We need a new policy to distribute cash among individual universities more or less according to the existing University Grants Commission pattern while allowing student numbers at each institution to find a natural level without artificial increases in entrance standards. One way of doing this is by salary restraint, and I very much hope my colleagues will take advantage of your promise that money saved by salary restraint will not be clawed back by the Treasury (a prospect which has not, unfortunately, been improved by more recent news of inflation in the public sector).

Another way is by a decline in the staff:student ratio. The staff:student ratio in British universities is something of a sacred cow, protected by the UGC in its duty to defend quality, and by the academic scientific establishment, which often argues as if research will grind to a halt if the typical physics or chemistry department has to teach one more student. It must surely be possible to achieve a moderate reduction in the average staff:student ratio without such devastating consequences.

I know academic departments around the world which do a lot of

good teaching and research. I know others where the situation is somewhat opposite. If individual universities and colleges were left to work out their own salvation I am sure most would adjust to a rational balance between teaching and research that would serve the national interest adequately. Clearly, however, the UGC would need to retain the power to intervene against blatantly irresponsible behaviour by individual institutions.

Another way to reduce the public expenditure cost of higher education is by freezing the total cash available for student maintenance grants. Here is a plan for doing this. I do not like it very much because I like the present system, but it is better than cutting student numbers.

I suggest that a proportion of the existing cash total (how much I cannot estimate because I do not have the necessary data) be reserved for students whose parents are at the bottom end of the income scale; these students would be selected by a full-time grant. The remaining sum, whatever it turned out to be, would be divided among the remaining students in some reasonably equitable fashion: the total cash being fixed, the more students who gained places, the less on average for each.

The effect would be that no student would know their prospective grant until it had been determined whether or not they fell in the protected group, and that among the non-protected group the actual grant would not be known until it was clear how many had applied.

When a student eventually received a grant less than she, he

As the future of the University of Ulster is put in doubt, Robin Marris writes again to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, asking him to rethink his policy on university spending.

or the parents felt was needed, they would have to decide whether to look for other sources of finance or not to go to college.

If this all sounds like a horrible process to the British, I can assure my compatriots that it is precisely the process undergone by hundreds of thousands of United States students every year.

There are, however, serious problems in the way of any attempt to plant American methods of student finance on existing British soil. Only a small proportion of US undergraduates are able to find full finance in the form of pure grants or scholarships.

Many have to be entirely supported by their parents or by other means. One of these is the American scheme known as the American scene is so different from Britain in this way that almost a social revolution would be required to adopt it here. I confess, also, that I am not hugely enthusiastic about it. But it is certainly efficient. A large proportion of casual jobs on American campuses — such as canteen workers, office and library assistants and parking police — are traditionally done by students.

American undergraduate edu-

cation being rather highly programmed and not very contemplative, this system is fairly consistent with a state of affairs in which the subjects combine the roles of worker and student.

The other major American source of supplementary student finance is the Federal Government loan scheme. Billions of dollars of new loans go out under this scheme annually. But the present American scheme has serious economic problems and is not, in fact, much liked by President Reagan, whose Administration has been trying to cut it back.

Under the scheme a student borrows money from a private bank at an interest rate around 10 per cent, while the Government not only guarantees the loan but pays both the interest accumulated before 9 months after the student graduates and the difference between 10 per cent and the current market rate of about 15 per cent over the whole term of the loan.

For the American banks, this is profit for jam. For the Federal Treasury, it is an open-ended commitment which may increase the dreaded money supply.

There is no such thing as a free lunch. If a student loan scheme containing an interest subsidy were by some miracle accepted by the British Treasury it would surely be brought down by the Bank of England. Nevertheless, it remains the case that the Government possesses a potential capacity for collecting student debts and/or for insuring loans that will at least seem greater and cheaper than the same risk would appear to your average high-street bank manager. One can envisage a scheme in

which the central government or local authority provides guarantees for loans at variable interest rates equal to the going rate on medium-term, gilt-edged securities. Provided that there does exist in this country a policy for controlling the money supply — a matter about which there is controversy — the finance for these loans would be diverted from other uses, such as consumer credit, and should not, therefore, be inflationary according to monetarist theories.

It remains a problem that in the present and prospective state of the economy, a responsible counsellor would be hard-put to advise a student to take on a significant burden of debt at current interest rates. The need for more modest amounts of debt, the scheme could be a useful source of topping-up finance for students or parents who felt their grants, in any, were inadequate.

One suspects that many students and parents would find other solutions. It cannot be pretended that the plan as a whole would be popular. But if frankly presented it should at least be less unpopular than the present policy which, as you know, is proving very unpopular. The plan would also give individual universities themselves an incentive to fight hard against inflationary increases in student residence costs. The more successful they were, the more students they could attract. I know that you and I must be total agnostics about that there is a moral there for the whole public sector.

Robin Marris

The author is Professor of Economics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Missiles: the gap that must be closed

by William Rodgers

Social Democratic MP for Stockton

The history of nuclear defence policy is perhaps the outstanding example of government proceeding in secrecy, despite the very large sums of public money involved, and almost certainly with damaging consequences in terms of public support.

Conservative governments have relied on loyalty and strong military instincts to restrain probing from their supporters; Labour governments have believed the less said the better, given the pacifist leanings of theirs. The result has been a polarization of attitudes — either "in favour of" nuclear weapons or against — and virtually no discussion of technological, strategic and economic matters.

What became known as the Chevaline programme for the improvement of Polaris missiles (eventually costing the taxpayer £1,000m) was not explained to the House of Commons until (in a statement on January 24 1981) it had been completed.

Defence White Paper of 1975 had said of Polaris, "We shall maintain its effectiveness". Subsequently, as Minister of State for Defence, I was instructed to say that the Government was "updating" Polaris, although not going in for "a new generation" of nuclear weapons. There was no question, for example, of "MIRV-ing".

It is impossible to believe that those towards whom secrecy was justified, in particular the Soviet Union, failed to put two and two together or would have been wiser had the costs of the programme been revealed. A Member of Parliament with normal access to Washington defence gossip could also have made a shrewd guess at what was happening. Why, then, was Parliament not told?

But, in defence, the cloak of secrecy is beguiling. The Minister feels that he is sharing in dangerous and brave events. He is loath to suggest that the magic circle should be widened or to take

the risk should any breach of security result. It is a tough and exceptional Minister — and then only the head of the department — who says "Yes" when the Chiefs of Staff (who can appeal to the Prime Minister) advise him to say "No". Telling the House of Commons is an additional burden gratefully escaped.

Fear of publicity, rather than any pretence of security, delayed a debate on the case for Nato installing Cruise missiles in Britain until after the decision of the House of Commons in December 1979.

A substantial literature on sea, air and land-launched Cruise missiles had grown up in the preceding five years. But, quite apart from discussion of technical questions and the choice between systems, there was virtually no reference to the relative importance of parity in theatre nuclear forces within the overall nuclear balance. The British public were hardly aware of the Soviet SS-20 missiles until the decision on Cruise had been justified.

The story was much the same with the decision to buy Trident to replace Polaris. In this case it was common knowledge that the Navy's Polaris submarines were likely to reach the end of their natural life in the early 1980s and that a long lead time would be required for a successor. The alternatives had been widely canvassed among defence experts and raised political, military and cost considerations which were controversial even among those wholly committed to nuclear strategy.

Ministers had had the matter on their desks at least since 1977 and early in 1980 it became clear that a decision was imminent. There was no reason whatsoever why the Government should not have published the options to be debated in the House of Commons before a final decision was made. In the event, the announcement was made first and the debate on the options paper — egregiously called Defence Open Govern-

ment Document 80/23 — merely sought endorsement of the Government's action.

I regret the failure of successive governments to take Parliament into its confidence on nuclear defence policy — and the failure of Parliament to pursue more vigorously its right to be consulted. But the issue goes wider. The majority of the public may be content to leave these matters to those who appear best able to judge them, but a significant minority is not.

The campaign against nuclear arms of any kind has been growing with virtually no attempt by governments to encourage informed discussion and lead the public through the choices and the process of decision-making. There is no dispute about the grave risks associated with nuclear weapons on virtually every course. This is an area where a Select Committee has a particular responsibility to provide a vehicle for disclosure, from which it should not be diverted by the pressure of ministers.

There are civil matters about which the public has a right to know but where secrecy — or, at least, an obstructive reluctance to disclose information — has been the rule. This has happened with public inquiries, where the complexity of the issues and the cost of delay have been made the excuse. Civil servants have been defensive about their inability to explain their case in public, especially when it was of technical nature; and genuinely anxious about the damaging consequences of planning "blight".

The Council on Tribunals, set up in 1958 following the Franks Report, has a broad supervisory role over the constitution and work of certain bodies. But there is a strong case for a select committee to which the public could appeal when questions concerning disclosure by government departments were in dispute. The Parliamentary Commissioner is concerned solely with

maladministration. He has no power to instruct departments to remedy the consequences of their acts, although they rarely fail to do so. It should be possible to extend this principle to cover defined areas of dispute between individuals and the executive where access to information is plainly germane to an individual's defence of his rights.

Let me give an example of what I mean that arose when I was Secretary of State for Transport. In 1976, the Government announced a review of highway procedures. This followed in-

creased public concern about the effect of road schemes on communities and their environment which had been reflected in serious difficulties at some inquiries into road proposals. There was a feeling that vital information in the possession of the Department of Transport was being withheld from objectors; and that, together with high costs, this gave an unfair advantage to the promoters of road schemes.

Important motorway proposals were being delayed not on their merits but because one side had no



means of judging their justification. Frustration had even led to violence and the system of enquiries was itself coming into disrepute. As Secretary of State, I was mainly responsible for the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Council on Tribunals. Substantial changes were made towards fuller disclosure in an area where tight-fistedness had been the tradition and this was accompanied by a parallel decision to accept new recommendations for public criteria to determine which roads to build. This virtually put an end to disruption by removing a strong sense of grievance. If at an earlier stage, and without waiting for action by what was in effect the defendant department, the whole matter had been taken to a Select Committee, much of the subsequent trouble would have been avoided.

The power to initiate a review should not rest with the Government alone. And the setting-up of an appropriate Select Committee would put these matters in Parliament where they belong rather than in the hands of an independent but appointed outside body.

But I am not persuaded that government would be better if, as a matter of course, official advice to Ministers was disclosed and civil servants came to be held as much responsible for ministerial decisions as ministers themselves. If the confidential internal memorandum were to be automatically disclosed, it would be written in a different way. There would be "black" advice as well as the official record. Certain documents would be deodorized and made available to the public and others would move into a more secure category where they were free from prying eyes. In some cases (which did not really matter) the options open to ministers would be revealed; in others (with much at stake), an issue of great controversy within a department would be presented in terms of unanimity. For these reasons, I remain to be convinced about what some people see as within the scope of a Public Information Act.

This is an extract from William Rodgers's *The Politics of Change*, published today by Secker and Warburg, price £7.95.

The Judge about to become a jailbird

The recently retired Judge Edward Clarke, whose convictions in murder cases were overruled twice in one week earlier this month, has a case role in the Bar Theatre Society's forthcoming production of *Measure for Measure*. He plays Barnardine, "a dissolute prisoner".

Clarke has been a regular in the society's performances of Shakespeare and Moliere in recent years, but says that increasing age diminishes the roles he is prepared to tackle. He is 73 and Barnardine is on stage only about five minutes.

There is some excitement in legal circles, though, that Clarke may not yet have bowed out of his judicial role. It is rumoured that he may have applied to return as a relief judge at the Inner London Sessions. Of that Clarke will only say: "You must wait and see what happens."

In one of the murder cases in which Clarke's convictions were recently quashed, he had secretly passed a note to the jury giving them a deadline by which a verdict must be reached. The Appeal Court deplored his action as "a grave material irregularity". On the second case the Appeal Court held that Clarke had not dealt adequately, "if at all", with the accused's defence of provocation.

The first night of *Measure for Measure* is next Monday in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn.

THE TIMES DIARY



The Israeli actor, playwright and director Gabriel Byrne has taken many curtain calls, but he has declined to take a bow after the contralto Maureen Forrester recently sang something he wrote as a teenager in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

His narrative documenting camp life was one of five pieces gleaned from a volume of poetry and drawings by Theresienstadt children. They were put to music

by the Canadian composer Srul Irving Glick.

Miss Forrester sang Dagan's words for several years in the United States, Canada and Europe believing the writer, whose original name was Peter Fischel, had later died in Auschwitz.

Earlier this month a programme editor for the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra established that Fischel had hebraized his name to Gabriel Dagan and was living in Israel.

Dagan and his family were invited to the Israeli premiere. He declined to take a bow, he said, because he did not want to cry before 3,000 people.

He urged her to write a "real" book instead, so she spent five years researching the nineteenth-century sealing industry and writing herself into the character of a teenage boy stranded during a hunting expedition. The book finally appears when Kari is 11, and just at an age to appreciate it.

£1,000 in a fund whose annual income was to be given to a deserving bride.

Kerry, partially handicapped by a rheumatic condition, works as a waitress at the City Hall. She was recommended for the award by four councillors who knew of her difficulties.

Salesmanship

London is pressing hard to become the EEC trade marks capital with the help of a glossy brochure and a good deal of subtle Community-wide lobbying.

A mere glance at the brochure ought to be enough to convince anyone who reads English, French or German that there is no logical other place to site the office.

The brochure has been produced and paid for by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council, which has noted how Munich has benefited from being made the site of the Community's patents office.

There is no mention anywhere in any of the three languages that the Labour Party is committed to leaving the EEC.

Off target

A political row is brewing over the Welsh Art Council's decision to stop subsidizing Wales's English-language fortnightly, *Crann*.

In the final edition of the magazine, published over the weekend, John Osmond, the editor, alleges that bias among Welsh Arts Council members in favour of the Welsh language helped stop the grant and so kill his magazine.

In December, he says, Meic

Stephens, the council's literature director, funded further fund-raising for 1982. The council otherwise and now Osmond asked the select committee for Welsh Affairs to investigate the council's "lack of accountability".

Sir Hywel Evans, the council's chairman, says that the magazine's circulation of around 2,500 does not merit any more money and that he would happily fund an English-language magazine which sold better. *Crann* was launched about 18 months ago with a circulation target of 5,000.

World audience

While the Pope is in Britain in May the BBC World Service will broadcast his play *Outside the Jewelers*, written in the late 1950s when he was auxiliary bishop of Cracow. It has already been heard by BBC listeners at home and the transcription service has sold it to radio stations in 27 countries.

The play is about love and marriage and stars Nigel Hawthorne, Barbara Jefford and Maureen O'Brien. Jeremy Verity of the transcription will be in Rome next weekend and will present the Pope with a copy of the tape at a general audience. He will also give him readings by Richard Pascoe and Hannah Gordon of the Pope's sequence of poems called *Easter Vigil*.

Don't bank on it

The jacket of a new sociological study of life in a kibbutz is causing some embarrassment to its British publisher, Andre Deutsch. The jacket of the book,

Kibbutz Makom, by Israeli psychologist Amia Lieblich, carries a photograph of two women working in a sun-drenched Jordan Valley cornfield. "Lovely picture", everyone said, until PHS pointed out that the women were Palestinian Arabs wearing traditional costume and not members of a kibbutz at all. "Ouch," said a Deutsch spokesman, adding "It's not our fault. We used the same jacket as the book's American edition".

Members of the Industrial Marketing Research Association are being put to the test. A circular inviting them to a meeting entitled *Researching for Innovation* leaves when and where the meeting is to be held.

On their medal

The Chinese National People's Congress has become the second Parliament to award a silver-gilt souvenir with a view of the Thames, couched in a green leather case. The first people to be given the medal were the Prince and Princess of Wales when they dined at the Palace of Westminster.

The medalion was presented to Peng Chong, a member of the Chinese Communist Party politburo and a delegate from Shanghai to the National People's Congress, by a visiting parliamentary delegation led by Edward Du Cann and Arthur Bottomley. They were celebrating the tenth anniversary of normalization of British diplomatic relations with

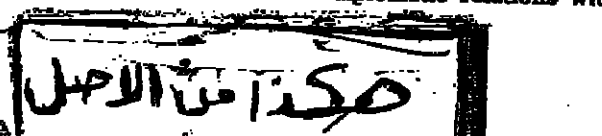
China, at a lakeside restaurant where the Empress dowager used to like to eat.

Broad church

It is not only at St Paul's that Lent lunchtimes are providing lively lectures. At Preston parish church in Lancashire to date the Bishop of Carlisle has vigorously expounded his belief in the sanctity of family life, only to find himself besieged by the divorced and separated demanding to know where they fitted in. Bishop E. R. "Ted" Wickham, doyen of the Church's experts on industry, talked of the creation of wealth and importance of investment, only to be accused of being a politician dressed as a priest, and the Bishop of Lancaster, says the rector, gave "fascinating insights on how to go about making churches redundant and demolishing them". Today's sacrificial victim is the chairman of the North Lancashire Methodist District, the Rev W. Knowles.

Quiz answers

1. Mary Whitehouse, who took *The Romans in Britain* to court. The show closed before the stars booked by the defence had appeared.
2. The Sultan of Oman.
3. At Westminster Bridge, where 69 demonstrators dressed as Lord Denning hijacked a bus.
4. Lord Gnome. The Sobell offices of the *Private Eye* are frequently mistaken for a brothel.





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MR PRIOR'S THROW

Politics for Mr Prior is the art of the impossible, in his Ulster period anyway. For eight years the politicians of the province have demonstrated by word and deed that they cannot meet across the loyalty gap to engage in or sustain institutions of devolved government. All, except for the integrationist school in the Unionist Party, want powers to be restored to the province, but all want the restoration on their own terms and all would prefer not to have it at all than to have it otherwise.

From that experience Mr Charles Haughey among others draws the conclusion that the province is not a "viable" political entity, and that it can be rendered viable only if it is reconstituted on a pan-Irish basis. Successive secretaries of state for Northern Ireland, who actually bear responsibility for the government of the province and the avoidance of civil war, have drawn from the same experience the different conclusion that, undaunted by their predecessors' failures, they must try again.

And so Mr Prior is found six months into his job poised to lay on the table, ingeniously presented and vainly disguised, the very dish that has been so frequently refused. The reason for this perseverance is multiple. It includes the following judgments: that the province is administratively (as distinct from politically) ripe for devolution because of its habits, situation and peculiarities; that Englishmen, however well-intentioned, are not

qualified to govern the place in detail; that the politicians there must be given something constructive to do if their influence is to be other than malign; that the events of the past fifteen years (not to say 400 years) dictate that if there are to be devolved institutions they must be such as to allow republican representatives to participate in the exercise of power; that it is needful, for both home and foreign consumption, to be seen to be doing something other than standing still.

The essence of Mr Prior's concoction is that there should first be elected a provincial assembly with consultative and coordinating functions. Executive or legislative powers could later be conferred piecemeal when triggered by the combination of a formula and a judgment: the formula being of a weighted majority in the assembly, the judgment being that of the Secretary of State that the precondition of cross-community endorsement is satisfied.

The present state of play is that the small non-confessional Alliance Party is all in favour of what Mr Prior is trying to do; the SDLP, the main vehicle for constitutional republicanism, is dismissive of stage two and dissatisfied with the paucity of signposts pointing south, but it would probably enter the elections though it has not committed itself to do so; Mr Paisley's unionists are keen to get elected but denounce stage two; Mr Molyneux's unionists have just

echoed that denunciation but would not boycott an election. The reception is discouraging. Both Mr Roy Mason and Mr Humphrey Atkins, having taken similar soundings, desisted. The openness with which Mr Prior has set about his task (it is a gross absurdity for the Unionists to talk of having been "deceived" and "double-crossed" when the whole thing has been taking place in a goldfish bowl) has given his initiative a political momentum that can hardly now simply be cancelled.

The Cabinet has yet to approve the scheme in its final form and Conservative members of Parliament have to make it possible to proceed, but it would be unwise of either to pull out the plug. Of course, an assembly whose members have nothing much to do except berate the administration and insult each other (which must be accounted the most likely outcome) would tend to political mischief. But it cannot be said with certainty that Mr Prior's rolling devolution with its enticements of office will not roll. The benefits to the province would be considerable if it did. The preliminary processes of establishing an assembly afford time for security forces to tighten their squeeze on the Provisional IRA. Expectations on that front are better kept cold, but there is reason to think that information from within are weakening the IRA's structure and morale. Decisive evidence of that would do more than anything else to improve political prospects in the province.

PRESENTING INDIA TODAY

The story has it that in the nineteenth fifties, when the French began divesting themselves of their Indo-China territories, Mr Nehru refused to recognize Cambodia: it was not truly independent, he claimed, perceiving French apron-strings still dangling behind. But calling in at Phnom Penh after a visit to Peking he was taken for a drive through the Cambodian countryside. During his tour he noted with growing pleasure in the traces of Cambodia's ancient civilization, the unmistakable racial evidence of the Hindu cultural tide that had swept across the region in the distant past. That tide had long ago receded but the traditions were still alive. Thus the history that Mr Nehru knew well enough had been brought to life. Returning to New Delhi he promptly reversed his decision and recognized the government in Phnom Penh.

Such occasions of culture directly influencing politics may be rare, either springing from personal impulse or from a scarcely conscious sentiment that has taken shape over decades. There is no evidence, for example, that the nineteenth century fashion for Japanese art and artifacts made Europeans any better aware of the significant changes then in progress following the Meiji restoration.

The re-evaluation of Chinese art, particularly Chinese painting, sixty years ago in Britain led to no better understanding or even interest in the revolutionary outlook then stirring in China. Which is to say, perhaps, that past and present occupy separate compartments quite apart from the division between politics and culture.

Nevertheless, a sentiment runs more smoothly with culture once a reputation is acquired. Last year Japan was very much put on the map in Britain by a major art exhibition buttressed by many smaller artistic or informative exhibits. This evening at the Royal Festival Hall two Prime Ministers, Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher, will attend a concert that inaugurates the Festival of India, a considerable enterprise over several months in which art, music and sculpture of all ages, together with some passages of India seen through western eyes in the early days of British rule, will be presented to the British public. Half of that public has no direct memory of the era of British rule and even those who have such memories or were associated with that rule never had such a conspectus of India as the Festival aims to present.

The aftermath of that era through the fifties and sixties gave to an older generation in

both countries the sense of a special relationship. The affairs of the sub-continent were followed closely. The sense of responsibility was such that a problem like Kashmir, for example, was often likely to cause anxiety in Downing Street and even to prompt attempts at mediation. It is doubtful if Kashmir has ever worried Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet. With Britain's membership of the European Community and the dying out of a generation that served in India and relished their memories, the special relationship expired in the seventies, though not without some distress to many Indians during the period when its vigour was ebbing. Now the politics of India are seen from afar.

The more reason for culture to be put on show. The classical past of Asia is divided between China and India and it is a necessary education for all of us. Moreover in the past India was far too often interpreted by a ruling class of British whose contact with India was confined to an English-speaking ruling class in India. The cultural span goes beyond that. Music, dance, art can speak directly to us, whether past or present. The Festival is a presentation of India by Indians and appreciation can be unconstrained by prejudice.

world, man be blown up by Saturday. Poor Harold (Macmillan) he's on the phone to Washington every hour on the hour."

Over a period of a few years I remember Rab's calm being only once visibly disturbed. On arriving in his room I realized that he was uncharacteristically edgy, and that the mandarin's mask had slipped. He was, at the time, being asked to resign as Secretary or, as he sometimes insisted on adding with historic punctuation, "the First Secretary of State". What unimaginable international crisis could explain his discomposure? "I shall not sleep tonight," he confessed. "By Sunday morning I have to recommend for or against a reprieve for a murderer. I hate it. But how can the judges be asked to apply the law we make if Home Secretaries are to defeat them by advising a royal pardon?" You abolish the death sentence or you use it.

In my years of pupillage Mr Macmillan and Mr Heath were making their first attempt to carry Britain into the EEC. Rab, although chairman of the Cabinet steering committee never concealed his profound scepticism. He was not sceptical like Mr Macmillan, who thought General de Gaulle would in the end say no. He was sceptical out of a sense of Conservative Party history. "It is," he said, "Peel and the Corn Laws all over again, and it can split the Conservative Party". Rab was wrong; it did not.

It may be said of Rab that he could be disloyal to colleagues partly because he could never resist a good encoded joke, but he could never commit any disloyalty to a party that did not hesitate to be disloyal to him. I remember the typically cynical account he gave of Peter Thorneycroft's resignation as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1958: "Peter asked, you know, for cuts of £150 million, and we gave him

all but £50 million. We were astonished when he resigned. After all, he has no money and needs the salary". Three cheers for Peter Thorneycroft.

My pupillage to Rab from which I draw continuing benefits, ended on a Friday night in October 1963. That day the Earl of Home had been to Buckingham Palace to be asked by the Queen if he could form a government, and he said he would try. Everything depended on Rab, who had a heavy cold and was staying at St Ermin's House while his Smith Square house was being redecorated. Seven ministers, including some of the strongest in the Cabinet, awaited his decision. He had only to stand firm.

At 10pm, with the first edition of *The Times* rolling, I telephoned St Ermin's and was put through to the Butler suite. Geoffrey Lloyd answered, and said ominously that Rab had been insisting to Edward Boyle that he insisted to refuse to serve under Home. Then Rab came to the telephone, and in a croaky voice answered the question I put to him: "Rab, if you were writing for breakfast time tomorrow what would you say about your intentions?" He replied: "I should write: 'Mr R. A. Butler will arrive at 10 Downing Street tomorrow morning and will tell Lord Home that he is willing to serve'."

Once again Rab had put his party's interests first; and already his ingenious mind was preparing for public consumption that delicious epigram that "I may not have been Pope, but it is something to have been Cardinal". None may doubt that he was one of the biggest and ablest politicians of his generation, and the most formative influence on his party for 20 years, an influence that continues to this day, but we do not deserve him must say he did not deserve the leadership he would not kill to win.

New obstacle to citizenship

From Mrs Ann Dummett

Sir, The Home Office has recently announced that the fees for obtaining citizenship are to be raised on April 1 to £200 for naturalisation and discretionary registration, and to £70 for registration by entitlement. Whether the intention be to raise revenue or to slow down applications the effect will undoubtedly be an arbitrary denial of citizenship to thousands of people who wish to apply and who can satisfy all the conditions as to length of residence, good character and future intentions that the Home Office may require.

A fee of £200 is unquestionably beyond the means of anyone unemployed or on low pay. It is a heavy burden even for someone earning an average wage. The father of family, wishing to apply for citizenship for his wife and child at the same time, would have to pay over £300—nearly £500 if his child had just turned 18. Even the £70 fee is impossible for someone living on social security, and the Supplementary Benefits Commission has made clear that it will not pay citizenship fees.

It should be remembered that thousands of aliens and Commonwealth citizens now living here have spent the greater part of their working lives here, paying taxes and National Insurance and have recently become unemployed in the recession, through no fault of their own.

The £70 fee applies to registration of Commonwealth citizens who have lived here continuously since before 1973, and were legally settled here then, and to wives or former wives, of British men. The Home Secretary cannot refuse an applicant in these categories who satisfies the statutory requirements. But imposing an impossible charge, in effect, to deny a statutory entitlement. What is at issue is a legal right.

Yours sincerely,
ANN DUMMETT,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1.
March 18.

Stubbs appeal

From Mr Julian Pritchard

Sir, May I be allowed to comment on the article in *The Times* of March 11, in which the Fitzwilliam Museum for funds to buy a painting by Stubbs as reported by you (March 16)?

Stubbs, like Canaletto, is a painter so admired in this country that one feels bold to question his reputation as an artist, yet I think it should be questioned. Undoubtedly he was a great celebrator of the horse; his anatomical knowledge of it is well known. But a horse does not make a painting and even in a newspaper reproduction this is sufficiently clear. The case of "Cimeter" with John Pratt up on Newmarket Heath has, it surely stands or falls on its composition, and Stubbs's can be very inept; for example, the horse's rump just touches the line of the wall, the underside of his belly just breaks the top of a distant tree, in neither case for any obvious expressive reason. The horse has the effect of a montage introduced, like the building, into a landscape that exists on separate terms. It needs little of an artist's eye to see that the whole picture needs "pulling together". Anatomist that he was, he knew the parts of things more than he knew how to coordinate them.

According to the state of the market, £250,000 may be a fair price; but with these compositional faults, which I think are demonstrable and serious, can the painting properly be described as a "great masterpiece" and is it worth the sum required to place it in what is not an equestrian museum, but a museum of art? A work whose purchase requires a public appeal must be very good indeed. If art museums are to be temples of excellence it is enough that it fills a gap in the collection by representing a strand of English painting?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN PRITCHARD,
25 Clarendon Place,
Baldern Street, W1.
March 16.

Legal precedence

From Mr Michael Scott

Sir, I think the Hon. Sir Charles Marnock, KBE, may claim to hold the record for the Commonwealth since he holds office as a Judge of the Fiji Court of Appeal at the age of 90.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
Chief Registrar,
Supreme Court,
Government Buildings,
Suva, Fiji.
March 10.

Welsh television

From Mr R. W. Wordley

Sir, In his excellent article published on February 22, Tim Jones may have been inadvertently misunderstood by his readers on two matters of importance—first, that viewing figures to Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C) in Wales should be a yardstick to judge the success of a television service designed to sustain a cultural heritage. Surely such statistics are inappropriate in this context.

The article also stated that "the new channel will cost an estimated £20m to run...." If that low figure was a reality, those of us who fought hard for proper funding for S4C would have failed. In these days of high costs, £20m per year would cover some 10 to 12 hours per week of

Britain's role in European defence

From Sir Edward Peck

Sir, In today's issue (March 19), Sir Bernard Burrows correctly draws attention to the inadequacy of Western European Union (WEU) as an institutional framework for strengthening European defence policy. One of his (and my) former Nato colleagues once wittily described the WEU as "an institution without an effort", whereas the Eurogroup of Nato Europe is incapable of defending itself. Indeed since its inception in 1968, the Eurogroup has done good work in harmonizing European logistics, equipment procurement and similar matters within Nato. French institutional reluctance to participate has been largely overcome, at least in the field of arms procurement, by the formation of the Independent European Programme Group.

None the less the Eurogroup has always been, and any body concerning itself in future with European defence policy must do likewise—that there can be no sense in having two strategies within one alliance and that for the measurable future Europe's security will depend on the United States, in particular the nuclear guarantee. It follows that any independent European defence policy is unrealistic until the day when it can be backed by sufficient military strength to justify abandoning the American commitment.

In your same issue Dr Robert McGeehan makes it plain that European lethargy is likely to make this day a remote one. All the same there is nothing like a hint of American withdrawal from Europe to bring the Europeans together.

A balance can and must be struck between American disillusionment with the supposed failure of the Europeans to help themselves and European frustrations with what some see as the domineering leadership of the United States. The value of the North Atlantic alliance lies not in the steady following leader attitude demanded by the Soviet Union of members of the Warsaw Pact, but in a frank and sometimes fierce exchange of views across the Atlantic. In this exchange Britain has a unique role to play in interpreting the views of America to the United States and the Europeans.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD PECK,
13 Blenheim Drive,
Oxford.
March 19.

From Dr Norman Dombey

Sir, Dr Kreider (March 16) rightly rebukes the Secretary of State for Defence for telling the House of Commons on March 11 that "the non-proliferation treaty never sought to refer to existing nuclear powers", and quotes an earlier statement of his on undertakings of all the parties to the treaty to negotiate in good faith on the "cessation of the

East Timor

From Miss Carmel Budiardjo

Sir, Atauro, the island to which 4,000 Timorese have been banished by Indonesia (*The Times*, March 5), has for some time been described by its exiles as a prison island. It is coming to be known as the "Buru of East Timor", a reference to Buru Island, which was used from 1969-79 as a prison camp and forced labour centre for more than 11,000 untried political prisoners.

It is good to know the International Red Cross have been allowed to visit prisoners on Atauro Island. By the very nature of its work, however, it will keep its findings confidential. On past experience of International Red Cross visits to prisons and camps in Indonesia where political prisoners were held, it is more than likely that pre-visit changes will have occurred to make things appear more acceptable and to remove any prisoners who might attempt to talk freely to the visitors. I know personally of many instances when this happened in Jakarta, Buru and elsewhere.

Following on the Red Cross visit, the Indonesian Government last week allowed Mr Gough Whitlam, former Australian Prime Minister, to visit East Timor so as to make an "independent assessment" of conditions in the country. (*Sunday Morning Herald*, March 3). Mr Whitlam is as far from being independent on East Timor as almost any politician of the world over. His latest act of independence was a tour of African countries last year during which he lobbied African countries to support Indonesia's annexation of East Timor at last year's UN General Assembly.

A real picture of conditions in East Timor, regarding the conditions of the prisoners, the likelihood of famine and more

nuclear arms race at an early date.

That, however, is not the only undertaking made under the treaty by a weapon state. Article 1 contains the provision that "Each nuclear weapon state party to the treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly." So, for example, if the intended purchase of Trident D5 were to include the nuclear warheads as well as the missiles it would clearly violate the treaty.

It is understood that Britain will provide her own nuclear warheads for the missiles, thus remaining within the letter, if not the spirit, of the treaty. But the matter is even more complicated, for under the May 1959 amendment to the US-UK mutual defence agreement, the US Government is empowered to transfer to the UK Government "special nuclear material, and other material, for research on, development of, or use in atomic weapons".

According to the well-informed French nuclear scientist, Bertrand Goldschmidt, in his book *Le Complexe Atomique* (Payard, 1980) this special nuclear material includes highly enriched uranium for use in British nuclear weapons "en échange de plutonium produit dans les réacteurs britanniques" (p.159). In addition, it is well known that tritium was supplied by the United States until recently (*The Times*, April 2, 1976) surplus supplies of the isotope Lithium 6 presumably also come from the United States. Whether such transactions remain within the letter of the treaty is more dubious; according to Goldschmidt, at least, these constitute a special case of vertical proliferation.

That the special relationship between the US and UK on nuclear matters continues and shows that Britain is indeed, to quote Mr Barnett (March 16) the "decide only which would not step out of line" will probably be demonstrated shortly when the Government is expected to announce that several tonnes of CEBG (Central Electricity Generating Board) plutonium is to be sold to the United States to fuel the Clinch River fast reactor, an ostensibly peaceful use. What the Government is not expected to announce is that this transfer of "peaceful" plutonium to the United States will allow the US Department of Energy to change the use of a reactor at Richland, Washington State, from the production of plutonium destined for Clinch River to weapon-grade plutonium (*New York Herald Tribune*, October 12, 1981).

It is therefore not surprising that the non-weapon states no longer take the provisions of the non-proliferation treaty very seriously.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN DOMBEY,
Science Policy Research Unit,
University of Sussex, Brighton.
March 18.

generally the way in which the country is being run by the Indonesian occupation troops, can only be obtained by genuinely independent observers who are given free and unfettered access. This the Indonesians have consistently failed to allow which only suggests that they have a great deal to hide.

Yours faithfully,
CARMEL BUDIARDJO,
IAPOL (British Campaign for the Release of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia),
8a Trepot Street, SW18.
March 8.

Arts sponsorship

From Mr Jacob de Vries

Sir, It is naive of Mr David Simon and others (report, March 12) to assume that sponsoring the arts tobacco companies seek to avoid the curbs on advertising imposed on sports sponsorship. Media coverage of sponsored arts events, however, is infinitesimal compared with that of tobacco-sponsored sport. I can recall only two musical events connected with cigarette sponsorship screened on television last year and in those overt references to the sponsor were virtually unnoticeable.

Far from trying to curb tobacco sponsorship of the arts Mr Simpson should encourage it, since it provides money where it is most needed. He should adopt the attitude of Benjamin Britten who, when told of the request by Benson and Hedges to stage an annual chamber music festival at Aldeburgh, said: "How can we not accept an offer to bring such great musicians to the Maltings?"

Yours faithfully,
JACOB DE VRIES,
5 Dryden Street,
Covent Garden, WC2.
March 13.

Bronze Age finds at Dover

From the Chief Archaeologist of the National Maritime Museum

Sir, Ronald Faux's timely article on the underwater site in Dover harbour (March 15) rightly draws attention to the importance of this Bronze Age excavation. During five seasons' work, 265 bronze objects have been recovered from the site of a possible boat wreck of c.1100 BC. The site is important not only because it contained the largest Middle Bronze Age assemblage known in Britain or in British waters, but also because of the nature of these finds. Most of the bronzes, including tools, weapons and fragments of bracelets, appear to have originated in eastern France and Brittany. Some of the items recovered are from bronze casting and others had been deliberately cut or broken. Such an assemblage strongly suggests a cargo of scrap bronze in transit from France to Britain rather than "loot", as stated in Mr Faux's article.

The aims of the forthcoming season of work, will be financed by the National Maritime Museum. Answers to questions about the type and extent of the site should enable the National Maritime Museum and the British Museum to determine what work should be undertaken in subsequent seasons.

Bronze Age plank boats have been excavated from estuary sites in Humberside at Brigg and North Ferriby, but the environmental conditions there were more favourable than at Dover to the preservation of wooden and other organic remains. Further investigation of the Dover site should provide more information crucial to our understanding of cross-Channel trade in the Bronze Age.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN MCGRAIL,
National Maritime Museum,
SE10.
March 17.

Up front

From Mr Geoffrey Ashton

Sir, Whilst you are right to draw attention to the delightful Playhouse, Charing Cross (Diary, March 12) and the exciting possibility of its return to the live theatre fold, it is perhaps over hasty to describe its curving curtain wall as the fourth oldest theatre facade in London. Apart from the other, albeit less attractive, frontages of the 1870s and 1880s one great and historic theatre has been omitted: the Lyceum.

The Lyceum portico was built by Samuel Beazley in 1834. However, the auditorium behind, and the stage on which Sir Henry Irving performed for thirty years, were replaced in 1904 by Bertie Crew's flamboyant interior. It is a large and practical theatre; the seating capacity could be greater even than Drury Lane, and the riotous decoration and magnificently baroque plasterwork make it one of the most attractive and atmospheric in London.

Perhaps, following the example of the Playhouse, the Lyceum, however, the auditorium behind, and the stage on which Sir Henry Irving performed for thirty years, were replaced in 1904 by Bertie Crew's flamboyant interior. It is a large and practical theatre; the seating capacity could be greater even than Drury Lane, and the riotous decoration and magnificently baroque plasterwork make it one of the most attractive and atmospheric in London.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ASHTON, Librarian,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
March 12.

Countryside cooperation

From Mr Malcolm MacEwen

Sir, Mr Hew Watt (March 17) has been misled by your report of the national parks conference (March 9). The brush between myself and a senior official of the Ministry of Agriculture is evidence not, as your correspondent suggested, of a "gulf" between farmers and conservationists but of mounting criticism of the ministry.

The ministry's policies for hill and upland farming, and in particular its refusal to apply the EEC less favoured area directive to the social and environmental purposes for which it was designed, are injuring not only the landscape and the conservation interest in national parks but also the wellbeing of many hill and upland farmers.

The tragedy of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, in which Mr Watt has so much confidence, is that it missed the chance to give agricultural policies the broad social and environmental objectives they so badly need.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MACEWEN,
Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning,
University College London,
Wates House,
22 Gordon Street, WC1.
March 20.

Optical illusion

From Mr John le Carré

Sir, Like others of your readers, apparently, I had always taken it for granted until today that *Private Eye* was edited from a brothel (report, March 18). I am appalled to think what sort of propositions may not have been made to the honest salespersons in the establishment below (described in the report as a sex shop), and I trust that the authorities will take all necessary steps to prevent the corruption of sex shops by an element of society which Sobu has until now successfully kept at arm's length. Yours faithfully,
JOHN LE CARRE,
c/o Farquharson's,
Bell House,
Bell Yard, WC2.
March 18.

David Wood
The man
with so much
to teach

Two facts dictate that my theme this week should be Rab Butler. First, influence prevented my adding a little lettering to his memorial when he died. Secondly, this is the last but one column I shall write before I formally retire, and there will be no other opportunity to give an account of what used to pass between the two of us, the statesman and the political reporter, at times when Rab held five or six of the most powerful posts of the Conservative government and the Conservative Party. It is now or never.

None of the obituarists seems to me to have made enough of Rab's role as a born teacher of the practical political arts, so that he was never without a kindergarten of younger men chosen for their high promise. When you came under his spell it was natural to become a figure in Commons politics so long, since my schooldays, and I had so much to learn. Rab made himself my tutor, and we met in his room behind the Chair usually on Wednesday night.

He would be sitting in a capacious chair behind a large table, looking like a mandarin. He might be writing with a pencil and second finger or, if he was thinking, he had a compelling habit of pushing the pen into a nostril. His pervasive calm reduced all crises and frenzies to proportion. On the Wednesday of Cuba week, his matter of fact greeting ran: "My dear Wood, the

BITUARY
MISS
ARJORIE
OLLARD
influential figure in hockey

Marjorie Ollard, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great woman of her generation.

She was the England's best known female hockey player, and a leading figure in the development of the game. She played for England from 1921 to 1932, and scored 13 goals in 13 matches. She was also an international player, and played for the British team in the 1930 World Cup.

She was a former captain of the England team, and a leading figure in the development of the game. She played for England from 1921 to 1932, and scored 13 goals in 13 matches. She was also an international player, and played for the British team in the 1930 World Cup.

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CAPTAIN ROSE
PHILIP ROSE

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He was a former captain of the England team, and a leading figure in the development of the game. He played for England from 1921 to 1932, and scored 13 goals in 13 matches. He was also an international player, and played for the British team in the 1930 World Cup.

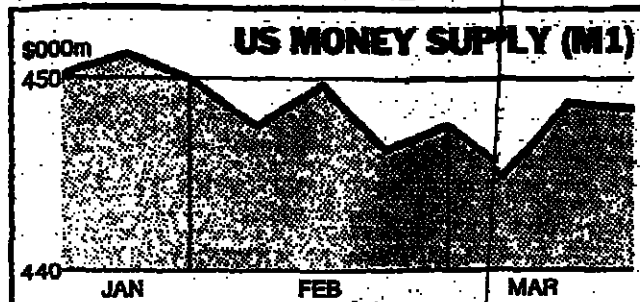
MR REGINALD
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BUSINESS NEWS

Fed slows M1



United States money supply (M1) fell fractionally last week to \$448,400m (€250,500m) from \$448,800m the previous week. After an alarming rise in growth earlier this year, the Federal Reserve Bank appears to have kept M1 under better control recently, although it is still well above this year's target range of 2½ to 5½ per cent. Analysts fear a rapid, if temporary, increase in M1, in April, accompanied by higher interest rates because of payment of tax rebates.

Pressure on the TSB

Moves are believed to be afoot to bring together the 16 regional Trustee Savings Banks under a single holding company as part of plans to bring the TSBs into the private sector. At present the TSBs comprising 16 unincorporated societies with a central board set up by statute, are controlled by the Treasury and are exempt under the 1979 Banking Act. According to Retail Banker International there is pressure on the TSBs to agree on a new structure prior to legislation needed for a move to full banking status.

Survey of taxation

The effects of the tax and social security systems on the incentive to work and the creation of the so-called poverty trap is to be examined by a sub-committee of the influential all-party Select Committee of MPs on the Treasury and Civil Service. The sub-committee will be headed by Labour MP Mr. Michael Meacher, has appointed as specialist advisers Professor A. B. Atkinson of the London School of Economics, and Mr. John Kay, research director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Multi-channel cable television is backed by a report out today from the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel.

Lloyd's Bill Changes

The Lloyd's Bill is due to come before the House of Lords for its second reading on April 1. The Bill, a private measure to give Lloyd's more flexibility in disciplining members found guilty of insurance abuses, is believed to have attracted six amendments.

China is to build 100 factories for mixed light industries in the Shekou industrial zone before 1985 and develop a Deepwater Bay in China's supply base for the Chinese in the South China Sea. Investment from Hong Kong is being sought.

THE WEEK AHEAD

All eyes on Eage Star

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT 100s 88.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bargains 18,408

Insurance shares are in the spotlight this week, with final results due on Wednesday from Prudential, and from broker Willis Towner on Thursday.

But most attention is likely to focus on the company sector where Eage Star may see company Wednesday's final results with comments on the likely intentions of Allianz Versicherung which holds a 28 per cent stake. The share price has remained buoyant on the assumption that the German group would make a takeover bid when its 12 month takeover code cooling-off period expires in June.

Talks are believed to have taken place between the two sides since the previous bid lapsed, and there were even reports that a suit in the United States was being sought as a preferable alternative.

One other possibility would be to dilute the Allianz stake by issuing some of the 43 million shares authorized but unused, which could cut the Allianz stake to little over 20 per cent.

The half-way stage profit profits exceeded market expectations, jumping from £29.5m to £38.5m pre-tax and despite continued weakness of motor premiums and the effects of a severe winter weather on the second half, analysts expect to see taxable profits up from £65.9m to about £73m in the year to December.

DIARY

Today: Gross domestic product (fourth quarter provisional). Tomorrow: Institute of Directors' annual conference Royal Albert Hall, London. Unemployment figures and unemployment vacancies March provisionals. Wednesday: Education, Science and Arts Committee on biotechnology. Phillips and Drew international investment conference. Construction new orders (January).

ECONOMIC VIEW

Today sees the publication of the income and expenditure measures of gross domestic product for the first quarter of 1981, with the first indication of what happened to company profits. The output measure of GDP published last month showed a ½ per cent rise between the third and fourth quarters.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY—Interim: Old Court Initial Reserve, J. & J. Mills, Reliable Properties, Second City Properties, Trafford Park Estates, Woodrow Wyatt. Final: Archfield Holdings, Beaton Clark, Cattle's Holdings, Consultants Computer & Financial, Exeter Building and Construction, Jackson Exploration Inc., Jackson PWS, Squire-Horn, Williams Horn, Williams and James (Engineers).

Mrs Gandhi's visit set to boost exports

By Peter Hill and Clive Cookson

Britain will use this week's official visit by Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to promote trade that could bring British industry £1,150m worth of business and preserve thousands of jobs.

The two main projects are a £1,000m power station and associated coal mine, and the first overseas order for System X Britain's electronic telephone exchange, worth about £150m.

Negotiations on the power station project, in which Northern Engineering Industries is the lead contractor, have reached an advanced stage. Although it is likely to be some months before a letter of intent is signed, British ministers hope Mrs Gandhi's visit will provide a new impetus for decisions.

The British Government has been heavily involved in negotiations with NEL, the National Engineering Laboratories, responsible for most of the power station equipment, apart from the turbine generators, which GEC would supply.

The power station is to be built at Singrauli. The National Coal Board would provide technical assistance for the associated mine at Karanpura.

System X is the telephone switching system developed by British Telecom and its three main suppliers in the past decade, at a cost of about £200m. It is now waiting for its first export order, three years after a joint company, British Telecommunications Systems (BTS), to sell the exchange abroad.

Until recent, BTS concentrated its efforts on adapting the System X specifications for export, and on identifying possible markets, rather than on an all-out sales campaign. However, under pressure from a Government anxious to capitalize on the public money spent developing the exchange, a more aggressive sales drive is now under way.

India is the first big prospect. In January Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, and Sir George Jisherson, chairman of British Telecom, visited India to promote System X.

Under BTS rules, one partner becomes lead contractor for each export market after the joint company has laid the groundwork. It is solely responsible for the final tender and, if successful, for building and installing the exchanges. GEC, which is taking the lead in India, will submit its bid before the end of this month.

The Indian contract, which would be worth £100m to £150m, would initially involve electronic switching equipment for about 200,000 telephone lines, requiring perhaps 20 exchanges. The Government will also expect the successful bidder to set up one or two factories in India to manufacture switching equipment under licence.

India is seen by British ministers as holding huge export potential for United Kingdom companies after £3,000m loan from the International Monetary Fund, a large part of which is earmarked for promoting industrial development.

Several British and European companies are challenging tax laws operated by a number of American states which, they claim, are penalizing their United States operations.

At least 50 British companies, including ICI, Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes and Reckitt & Colman, together with dozens of French, German, Italian, Dutch and other European multinational groups, are campaigning against the laws. Legal proceedings have been taken to the United States Supreme Court alleging that some of the tax laws enforced by several states, including Oregon, Illinois and California, infringe the United States constitution.

European employers' organizations, among them the Confederation of British Industry, are spearheading the legal challenge on which the Supreme Court will shortly be asked for a decision. At the centre of this legal wrangle is the issue of unitary taxation, a system under which a company's tax liability is calculated on a proportion of the world-wide profits of the entire group.

UNICE, the confederation of European employer organizations, has lodged a detailed submission with the Supreme Court. It is being supported strongly by the CBI which has spent five years arguing over the unitary taxation issue with support from the European Community, the United Kingdom Government.

Mr Ernest Hopwell, chairman of Marwin, said: "We are not prepared to invest in robots. We believe they will be developed by only a few companies and will be made largely for stock."

However, flexible assembly systems, based on computer aided design and possibly incorporating robot and machine centres, are seen as having the potential to achieve big reductions in production costs, while improving quality and productivity.

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Dr Gerhard Widi, of Bosch says: "Some 40 per cent of productive wages are spent on assembling. So this sector is particularly interesting for the use of flexible automation, although it is also one of the most difficult challenges."

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Europeans test US tax laws

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

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Sinclair shares for sale

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Mr Clive Sinclair plans to sell off part of Sinclair Research, his two-year-old microelectronics company which has an estimated profit of £5m a year.

He has asked Rothschild's merchant bank to arrange a private placing of shares in Sinclair Research, which is still smarting from public criticism of its valuation of Amersham International, may find it even more difficult to judge the right price for Sinclair shares.

"At the moment we don't know how to value the business," a Rothschild executive said. As a first step, the bank has sent in a firm of accountants to report on the finances and future prospects of the company.

Rothschild hopes that the report, with Sinclair Research's results for its second full financial year ending on March 31, will allow a price to be agreed during the summer. The shares could be placed with City institutions in the autumn.

Mr Sinclair is thinking of selling about 20 per cent of the company. He wants to raise money for his ambitious research and development programme. Sinclair Research runs four laboratories, including one in Exeter working on an electric car to be launched in 1984.

Sinclair Research has not existed long enough to qualify for a quotation on the London stock exchange, and Mr Sinclair and Rothschild do not like the idea of trading the shares on the unlisted securities market. But, in the longer run, Sinclair is heading toward a full stock market quotation.

The company's extraordinary, though brief, growth record should allow Rothschild to place the shares at a very fancy price. On the other hand, Sinclair's performance so far has been due almost entirely to the ZX81 home computer, which has sold more than 300,000 units during the year since its launch.

A one-product company, dependent on the genius of one man, Mr Sinclair, may not look so attractive. Therefore Rothschild will evaluate future products, particularly the ZX2 follow-up computer and the £50 flat-screen television which will be launched later this year—very carefully before it puts a value on the company.

Screen gem: the £50 microvision, with FM radio, Clive Sinclair's latest potential money spinner.

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Courier services 'a benefit to public'

By Baron Phillips

Britain's rapidly expanding air courier service will tell MPs this week that consumers have benefited greatly from the removal of the Post Office monopoly on postal services.

In the last two years, business for international couriers—which specialize in moving documents and parcels across the world quickly—has doubled. It is now worth about £45m for the 15-strong membership of the Association of International Air Courier Services.

Members believe turnover could expand by a further 50 per cent within the next year. On Wednesday the Association will give evidence to the Select Committee on Industry and Trade, which is looking at the effects of last October's British Telecommunications Act. The Act suspended the Post Office monopoly for time sensitive letters, provided private competitors charged a minimum £1.

The service has made great inroads, particularly in the world's financial centres. High interest rates and fluctuating exchange rates have necessitated rapid transfer of documents between banks.

In all cases couriers have expanded on the back of assured delivery times which, the association claims, the Post Office cannot always offer. And since the passing of the Act, the market for this type of delivery service has expanded rapidly.

BL Cars is "within striking distance" of concluding a revolutionary new deal with 11 unions representing 50,000 manual workers. It is after 15 months of delicate negotiations, including several breakdowns—both sides were last night reluctant to disclose details.

A BL Cars spokesman said: "We are within striking distance of one of the most far-reaching labour relations deals since 1945. BL was treated. But we are not there yet. One or two meetings will still be needed to clinch it."

However, it is known that the biggest breakthrough will be the formation of a National Joint Negotiating Committee which, unlike its predecessor, will not be an undisciplined "talking shop" dominated by militant shop steward members of the Transport and General Workers Union.

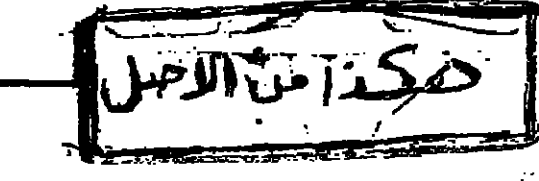
The original JNC collapsed in November 1980. At the next meeting on Friday the two sides are expected to agree the constitution of the JNC. They will also introduce a new procedural agreement for settling disputes and a much modified version of the present bonus scheme to make it more easily understood by employees and to relieve payment to an individual's efforts as opposed to a whole plant.

Mr Horrocks denied suggestions that higher United Kingdom car prices were deliberately encouraged to subsidize BL at the expense of the consumer. Since 1977, when United Kingdom and European prices had been similar, United Kingdom prices had been increased by the strength of the pound against European currencies and by higher United Kingdom inflation.

Solely on the difference in exchange rates, he said, a car which cost £3,000 in the United Kingdom and Belgium in 1977 would now have fallen in Belgium to the equivalent of £2,220 "without any intervention by the manufacturer."

"If one also takes into account United Kingdom inflation was 70 per cent over the period, while in Belgium it was only 30 per cent, a difference in prices is hardly surprising."

However, said Mr Horrocks, a general rise in European prices now seemed likely. Car makers on the Continent, most of whom were non-unprofitable, were facing pressure from their bankers to raise prices on the ground that they were becoming "too competitive."



Bid for business index 'a scandal'

By Drew Johnston

Trouble is brewing over the destination of more than a million highly-detailed card-indexed business records held by the now-defunct Registry of Business Names closed last month after 66 years as part of the Government's drive to reduce the numbers of Civil Service jobs.

To the fury of the credit agency industry which used the records extensively in assessing credit worthiness, a bid for the records has been made by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry which last month set up an alternative, "free enterprise" business registry.

The LCCI has made it clear that its business search charges will be substantially greater than the search fee of £1 levied by the old registry. A fee of £10 has been mooted.

No decision on the bid has been taken by the Government, but a statement from Dr Gerard Vaughan, consumer Affairs Minister, is expected shortly.

A Department of Trade spokesman said the LCCI had asked the Department to sell its records for use in its registry service. "We've been considering it for some weeks."

Mr George Cordoroy, a spokesman for Stationers' Law Society, who described himself as representing around 75 per cent of company registration agents said: "We think it's a scandal."

"We're alarmed that anyone has made a bid, because possession of the index of business names registrations means they can charge high fees for access to information which was compiled for the public's use."

He said that with high fees and the high number of searches—175,000 in 1979—the owner of such information could make large sums of money.

Under the terms of the 1981 Companies Act, businesses must display the owner's name at the place of business, as well as an address, but, according to Mr Cordoroy, this is not an effective substitute for the old registry.

A new deal that will increase imports of industrial automation technology to Britain has been concluded between the Midlands-based Marwin Engineering Group and Bosch of West Germany.

The agreement covers the sale and production in Britain of the Bosch flexible manufacturing system, a range of equipment that can be built up to form a fully automated and integrated factory assembly line.

Flexible assembly, which brings together the latest developments in computer-controlled machine tools, robot and production automation, is commanding growing interest in Japan, Germany and the United States but has yet to catch on in Britain despite Government support for automation as a means of increasing industry's competitiveness.

The Bosch system, regarded by the company as one of the first stages necessary to automate a factory totally, has already been installed in the German group's own plant for the assembly of motor components such as alternators and headlamps and has been bought by other European companies.

Volkswagen is using the Bosch equipment for assembling water and oil pumps, Mercedes for steering mechanisms, Ford Germany for knuckle assemblies, and Grundig for cassette-recorder drives.

The new agreement gives Marwin exclusive rights to market the system in the United Kingdom and South Africa. The Wolverhampton-based group estimates the current market for automation equipment is £50m a year and expects this to increase at an annual rate of 25 per cent.

Growing awareness, particularly in the machine tool industry, which offers great prospects for all types of automated machines, has resulted in a number of other joint deals between British and overseas manufacturers.

One of the fruits of last year's high technology cooperation agreement by the Japanese and British governments, for example, was the signing by the 600 Group of a 10 year contract to produce in the United Kingdom the full range of industrial robots developed by Fujitsu Fanuc.

Britain's robot population, according to the British Robot Association increased by 90 per cent last year to 731 and put the country fifth in the world robot league table. But Marwin believes robots will play only a small role in the automation of industrial production.

Mr Ernest Hopwell, chairman of Marwin, said: "We are not prepared to invest in robots. We believe they will be developed by only a few companies and will be made largely for stock."

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Marwin to market Bosch technology

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

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Natwest weighs in behind Whitehall

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Support for the Government's economic policies has come from National Westminster.

Mr Robert Leigh-Pemberton, chairman, says in the bank's annual report that it has become apparent that high inflation is deeply embedded in Britain and has left industry seriously uncompetitive.

"It is difficult to see any alternative to the acceptance of the severity of the present policies designed to reduce the growth of money supply and the level of public expenditure and thus control inflation," he says.

There are grounds for believing that industry will be more competitive when the economy turns up, but he counsels against a policy of general reflation, which could lead to rising prices.

He advocates government measures to cut industry's costs to stimulate economic activity, and suggests that nationalized capital projects in nationalized industries might also help.

"We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy although the specific targets need to be defined and interpreted," Mr Leigh-Pemberton said yesterday.

Directors of ACC are expected to meet today to discuss whether Mr Robert Holmes & Court should step down as chairman. There appears to be growing support for the takeover code when TVW Enterprises bought shares in ACC in the stock market at above the bid price and then failed to declare the purchases within the required time.

ACC directors are worried over whether they are still obliged to stick to irrevocable undertakings to sell their voting shares to Mr Holmes & Court.

There has been disquiet in the City about the possible conflicts of interest that Mr Holmes & Court's dual role might involve. The ACC board is also thought to have been embarrassed by Mr Holmes & Court's breach of the takeover code when TVW Enterprises bought shares in ACC in the stock market at above the bid price and then failed to declare the purchases within the required time.

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY
PEOPLECARDIFF
In a class
of his own

"A" for effort for Fanthorpe, L., who besides being headmaster of a Cardiff comprehensive school, Glyn Derw, is also something of a publishing phenomenon.

Fanthorpe, 47, writes not textbooks but science fiction, and in Mike Ashley's forthcoming *Science Fiction Book of Lists* is down as the fastest and most prolific practitioner there is.

He began writing for SF pulp magazines when he was 17, has since published over 175 books. One was written in 11 hours.

Most are paperbacks written for Badger Books for



Fanthorpe the phenomenal which the author retains the right.

With his wife Patricia, he runs a bookshop in Cardiff specializing in SF and fantasy, and he is a director of the city's firm of specialist SF and fantasy publishers Grosvenor Media.

They are publishing an SF trilogy for him, the first volume of which, *Black Lion*, is already out. But Fanthorpe tells me the firm is not handling his latest, a blockbuster non-fiction work, written in collaboration with his wife and called *The Mysterious Treasure of Rennes-le-Chateau*.

This is an answer to Baigent, Lincoln and Leigh's *The Holy Blood & The Holy Grail*, and argues that the mysterious holy relic is in the keeping not of the Priory of Zion but of the Order of the Temple, a group of Hapsburg sympathizers in Austria.

● **Audrey Matheson**, who is the in-house foreign languages tutor for the Worcester engineering group Redman Heenan International, finds her pupils getting younger all the time. She is now teaching not only Redman's old midwives but also from nearby Malvern College, who are coming for conversation classes, under a cooperation between Martin Rogers, the headmaster of Malvern — who wants children to understand business — and Redman group chief executive John O'Connell, who is also a governor of Malvern School.

FALMOUTH
Tall story

The Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race returns to British waters in July, bringing with it for John Hamilton and Christopher Green the prospect of an intriguing international confrontation.

Hamilton is the race director of the Sail Training Association, and Green a director of the race's sponsors, Cutty Sark scotch.

On Sunday, July 25, over 80 sail training vessels are due to set sail from Falmouth to Lisbon — among them the Polish merchant navy's new square-rigger, *Dar Modrzy*, and the USSR's fishery's board barque, *Kruszewski*.

When the ships reach Lisbon on August 3, Hamilton tells me, there is a "crew interchange" in which masters establish which of their crews would like to complete the final leg to Vigo and back to Southampton aboard a ship of another nationality.

Would any attempt be made to keep Russians and Poles apart? I asked. "No," says Hamilton. "The whole point of the race is to integrate youngsters of different nations."

● **Ross Davies** it looks as if the unemployed are getting on their feet, as the Employment Secretary, Norman Tebbit recommends, not necessarily to look for work. Social authorities in North Wales are pondering reason behind a sudden increase in school registrations of English-speaking children. They suspect English people on the dole are choosing to sit out the recession in beautiful but jobless North Wales rather than in the industrial but equally jobless north-west and north-east of England.

NEW
APPOINTMENTS

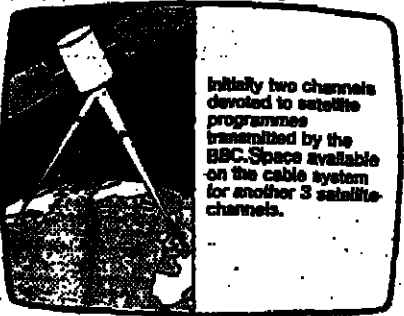
Sir Maurice Hodgson has been appointed a director of British Home Stores with effect from April 1.

Mr George Gomez, Mr Philip Gooding, Mr Leslie Goodman and Mr Donald Rushman have been appointed to the board of Hill Samuel & Co. with effect from April 1.

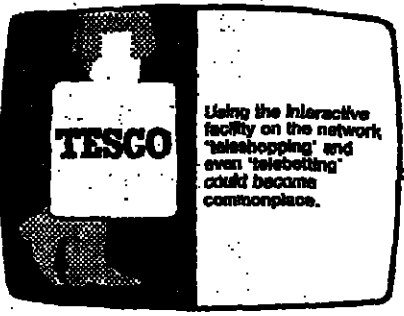
Richard Hornby has been appointed non-executive director of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr A. J. Brook has been appointed a director of Boddingtons Breweries.

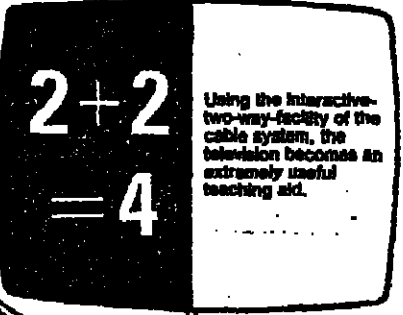
SATELLITE BROADCASTS



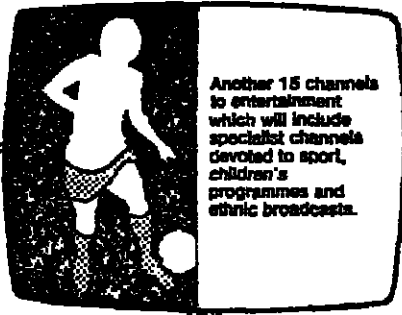
CONSUMER SERVICES



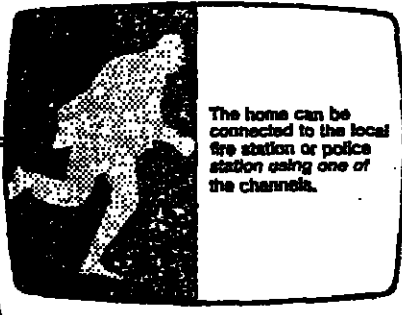
EDUCATION



ENTERTAINMENT



SECURITY



The face of broadcasting could change completely within the next two years if the Government accepts the recommendation of the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel that Britain should have a cable television system of at least 30 channels.

The restrictions on television programming and broadcasting which have managed to contain the number of television channels to a mere three in nearly 50 years of broadcasting would go.

The report, to be published later today, was compiled by experts from industry, the city and the academic world. It suggests 20 entertainment channels and a further 10 for consumer services. In theory they could be operated 24 hours a day.

The first four would be devoted to the normal television broadcasting channels (BBC1 & 2, ITV and Channel 4). In addition there would be one other ITV channel to carry programmes from one ITV region to another, two BBC direct satellite broadcasting channels and three other satellite channels yet to be assigned.

Other channels might be devoted to children's entertainment, arts, education, sport, sub-titled programming for broadcasting foreign language material or to assist those viewers who are hard of hearing, films, local/national political coverage, a television version of yellow pages and special ethnic channels possibly for West Indian or Asian viewers. Separate channels could also be used to secure premises against fire or burglary by wiring the home to the local fire brigade or police station.

What is being recommended is not purely an entertainment system but a communications system which would provide services for the subscriber, like armchair shopping.

"We consider the long term potential of cable systems for providing new sorts of services to be much more important, but have to accept that cable systems will go through an initial phase when their attraction will be based on entertainment considerations," says the report.

An extensive cable television network will be recommended by a Government advisory panel report published today. Bill Johnstone explains the implications.

The cable network
that would link
up with your life

The time scale would depend on government approval and industry's response. Cable — about 25,000 worth — will need to be manufactured and a lot of expensive hardware built. But the first part of the network, the report to the cabinet suggests, could be operational within 18 months.

● The proposed new cable television system would be made up of a number of local networks. The idea of the systems is to encourage as much local input as possible. The entire range of programming on the system could be offered to the subscriber for between £5 and £10 a month.

If a system similar to the types running in north America were adopted a number of channels, probably half of the complete channel range, would be provided for a standard subscription. Additional channels, probably films, and some specialist programming would be paid for either by subscription or by paying separately for each programme viewed.

The mechanics of the system are fairly straightforward. A local network would be set up with cable running into every street in the district. Optical fibre cable would probably be used for this section since it has a capacity to carry large volumes of information. Each subscriber would then be connected by another cable to the main network.

The cabinet advisers estimate that each home in a town with a population of about 100,000 could be wired at a cost of between £200-£300.

● The advisory panel sought the views of 21 organizations, among them British Telecom, BICC, the BBC, the Electricity Council, the National Economic Development Office, the Open University, Thomas Cook, Debenhams, Ladbroke's, Logica, Tesco and Thomson Regional Newspapers.

The report says: "Our investigations have revealed considerable interest by private firms (not only from established cable companies) in the possibility of participating in the cable systems, and we have no doubt that funds would be available from commercial sources to finance the installation of cable systems."

The cable systems would generate substantial business for the British electronic and cable manufacturing industries. The total investment could be in the region of £1,000m a year for the next ten years, the cable cost for wiring 50 per cent of the UK is between £2,000-£3,000m.

If the decision was taken to wire about 70 per cent of British homes to the new cable system the cable costs would rise to £5,000m.

The report is intended to encourage British business interests, and the system recommended may exclude the use of American technology which is built to meet different technical standards.

British Telecom is already advanced in fibre optic cabling technology — the use of thin glass fibres the width of a human hair to carry the amount of data contained in 2,000 simultaneous telephone calls. British cable companies like BICC and STC would also be involved.

material — the BBC and Thom-EMI, for example could make a lot of money.

Thom-EMI owns the copyright to a substantial catalogue of films which are already available or will soon be available on video. These same films could be made available on cable. The BBC has a large archive of copyright material suitable for transmission on the cable systems. The extra money generated by such secondary income could lessen the pressure on the corporation to seek licence fee increases.

The cable system recommended would be interactive (two way) allowing the viewer to respond to what is appearing on the screen. This facility would allow retailers to develop "teleshopping". Tesco, which contributed to the cable report, is already running a "teleshopping" experiment in Gateshead. It has set up terminals at remote sites from the Tesco store on which customers can order groceries for delivery.

A similar approach is expected to be taken by travel agents who will allow viewers to book tickets and holidays direct from their armchair. Race meetings and possibly even "teleshopping" might be available on the system, provided by race course owners or bookmakers.

Companies which rely on television advertising may find another vehicle for selling their products. British viewers might be able to watch regularly sponsored programmes, at present not allowed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The report says "Additional income could come from advertising and perhaps sponsorship."

Poles still plan on long-term Western help

INTERNATIONAL
OUTLOOK:
POLAND'S DEBT

By Roger Boyes

Warsaw — Poland's corridors of financial power should perhaps be fitted with revolving doors to cope with the Soviet economy and Western goings out. Two weeks ago, the three-member team, from the International Monetary Fund, in this week came Soviet advisers to discuss industrial assistance.

Mr Zbigniew Karz, head of the International Department in the Polish Finance Ministry and one of the few remaining optimists on Poland's debt, says that the IMF team went away broadly satisfied on a number of points. "We could show them that our general aims, outlined to the IMF last year, remain fundamentally the same."

Indeed martial law has changed at least two economic features positively. "Economic reform is going ahead full steam and in fact reform of retail prices has moved much further ahead than anticipated last year."

Decoded, that means martial law enabled the Government to push up prices three and fourfold without the danger of widespread popular opposition. Secondly, "the extraction of raw materials is at a much higher level than last year."

Although Poland is still interested in IMF membership, it does not hold out any great hope of a miracle cure. Rather its strategy is to use Western banks — whose will to see a Polish economic recovery is undeniable — to put pressure on reschedule 1982 government debt.

In previous years, Poland used Western governments such as Bonn to pressure



Martial law and the economy: military authorities monitor production at the Fiat Polski car factory in Warsaw

banks into lending to Warsaw to maintain political stability, now it is doing the reverse to ensure economic stability.

The interest payments for 1981 have now been paid off, and a rescheduling of 1981's bank debt of \$2.4bn (£1.3bn) will be agreed at the beginning of next month. An agreement then has to be reached on rescheduling bank debt just over \$2.4bn for 1982 and the \$2.2bn owed to Western governments.

"We need the West of course," says Mr Karz, and the figure certainly seems to support the contention. But with a crushing inevitability, Warsaw is turning to the Soviet Union as a makeshift economic saviour. This has been loudly fanfared over the past two months, partly as a matter of ideology but partly also as a way of signalling to the United States that economic pressure on Warsaw will simply make a loyal communist ally out of Poland.

Poland, scared that it will be declared in default, knows that the Soviet Union would only be of limited assistance in such a case. "It would be

naive to continue believing in the Soviet umbrella theory," says Mr Karz, but that in the absence of any short-term solution to its industrial problems, deeper Soviet-Polish co-operation is the only way out.

There is thus no radical rejection of the West or indeed of Western imports, only a short-term tactical recognition that his brothers can make fraternal gestures.

It becomes clear that Polish-Soviet co-operation is important to Warsaw because it is the only feature of the economic situation which can be predicted with any certainty. "Look, these are the uncertainties: we don't know what the West will do. What will happen to the refinancing of commercial debt, we don't know what will happen to new commodity credits. There is uncertainty in the economy, we don't know how market conditions, we don't know how the agricultural situation will develop."

By contrast the Soviet Union provides a measure of stability. "There have been no hard currency loans from the Soviet Union this year, says Mr Karz, despite Western press reports to the contrary. Moscow lent \$465m to Poland last year, and rescheduled \$1bn of an earlier hard currency loan. Poland of course in trade deficit with the Soviet Union — a 1.6bn transferable roubles in 1981 and a similar gap, or "a bit higher," is expected this year, says Mr Karz.

But 70 per cent of Poland's imports from the Soviet Union are raw materials which then help Polish industry to export to hard currency countries. "Under these circumstances, the deficit with the Soviet Union is not so important. I would say it is better, if one has a choice, to get a million tonnes of oil for transferable roubles, than to spend say \$200m buying in Arab oil. That is more interesting for us and for Western countries too."

The message in the Polish Finance Ministry is that there is no short cut — via Moscow — out of Poland's debt problems, but the Soviet Union and other East European countries can and will ensure that industrial production gets back on course.

Although it is difficult to give precise figures, the report suggests that the production seems to be in the chemical industry, metallurgy (including steel), mechanical engineering and cars.

Ministry officials say that the February comparison is misleading, in the second half of last year there was a deteriorating trend in output that has simply been continuing and indeed showed a slight improvement in February compared to January 1982. The drop has not been caused by martial law, they say.

This however is disingenuous: Polish industry is in serious trouble, hit by the dual evil of raw material shortages due to the absence of Western credits and stagnating labour productivity.

The problem with this assistance from the Soviet Union and other East European countries is that it is helping to distort the Polish economy and above all is undermining the cause of economic decentralisation, still technically viewed as the way out of the crisis. The short term solution to the crisis, Polish planners seem to believe, is to concentrate on priority areas — mainly shipbuilding, engineering, tractor construction, aviation, cars, electronics and steel.

But this means that a small factory which has previously supplied, for example, batteries to the Ursus tractor factory and a dozen other customers, will now have to concentrate solely on Ursus.

The long term effect of this short term thinking is that more tractors will be produced. But that several smaller plants will grind to a standstill and the battery producer itself will lose any semblance of managerial autonomy.

The mirvana of a trim Polish industry able to adapt quickly and smoothly to changing market conditions is still a long, long way off. Mr Karz remains the only optimist in town.

Business Editor

French expansion
threatens EMS

It may have taken elections to focus the attention of the foreign exchange markets on the deficiencies of the franc. But the actual outcome of Sunday's second round of local government polls is unlikely to have more than a temporary impact on the currency's sagging fortunes.

The fact is that investors, having taken a good look at the French economy, are increasingly alarmed at what they see as a burgeoning state budget deficit which this year may rise to five times its 1980 pre-Mitterrand level; a persistently high inflation rate, presently around 14 per cent, which shows little sign of easing; and a growing balance of trade deficit.

Strains within the European Monetary System were inevitable once France decided to go its own way and pursue an expansionary course in the face of the restrictive policies adopted by other members. Indeed, the French risk precipitating possible collapse of the system.

Though the EMS may not have succeeded in securing greater convergence of members' economies this

per cent is thought necessary by some analysts. But so long as the French are pursuing different policies from everybody else no one believes that the next devaluation, when it comes, will be the end of the story. Unless France changes its policies, or pulls out of the EMS as some have advocated, the EMS has a rocky road ahead.

Banks

Tax fears

Midland Bank rounded off the dividend season last week with only unchanged profits but this still left aggregate profits for the big four up by 15 per cent to a record £1,679m. This year profits are expected to be higher still as higher stockbrokers W. Greenwell, for instance, forecasting an overall rise to more than £2,000m.

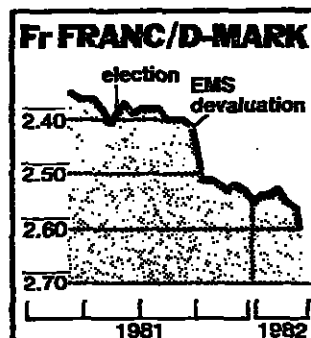
Much of the 1981 rise has come from international operations. Most of the increase at Barclays from £524m to £567m pretax came from Barclays International, National Westminster's international division and also from Lloyds and Lloyds also showed big gains on overseas operations.

In contrast, falling interest rates and rising costs have put pressure on domestic banking. This was only partly offset by the banks widening the spreads between their base and deposit rates.

Lloyds managed to buck the domestic trend by controlling costs and pushing up market share and Midland also showed an odd-man-out employee reductions helped towards the smallest rise in domestic staff costs of all the banks allowing the clearing bank to show an improvement from a poor result the year before. However, Midland's international side was held at unchanged profits because of higher bad debt provisions.

Although the profit outlook is good for 1982, the big uncertainty is just how the market will react to carry out his Budget threat of ensuring a reasonable tax take from the banks. The banks pay very little United Kingdom tax although they argue strongly that industry gets much of the benefit through the cheap leasing finance they provide.

● After what appears to have been a relatively low level of interest in last week's offering of Government index-linked stock, what happens next? The market has driven down the yield on the existing stocks to below 2½ per cent, an stage on the assumption that the opening up of the market to all comers would produce a significant response. But now that response has not materialized, the market will have to stage a new level. Private investors who have not yet tucked a little of the stock away in their portfolios, can probably afford to wait and see what happens over the next few days. How the authorities will play their hand, having said they will not supply the 1982 stock below £97.50, is a different matter. It looks very much as if its next offering will have to be rather more conventional.



remains the system's central objective and gives it its logic and coherence. With-out that objective the EMS becomes a thing of threads and patches which could blow apart when the next storm hits and that storm could only weeks away for all the details of devaluation from French ministers last week.

Even outside the EMS, though, the franc could be in persistent trouble. Things are not working out as the Government hoped and planned. The budget deficit for 1982 of 95,000 francs (£8,500m), equivalent to about 2½ per cent of Gross Domestic Product, is expected to be upset by unplanned extra public spending and slower than expected economic growth which will dampen revenues.

The likely deficit is being put at anything between 120,000m francs and 150,000m francs, equivalent to 4 to 5 per cent of GDP, compared with 1.1 per cent in 1980.

The French Government is hoping that its wage and price controls will help to bring inflation down to 10 per cent by the end of this year. By contrast, the OECD, in its recent sober assessment, sees all the ingredients for a damaging price-wage spiral.

The trade deficit, too, remains stubbornly intractable as a relatively rapid inflation and an overvalued exchange rate has hurt the competitiveness of French products. A devaluation of around 8

LEGAL NOTICES

RE: ADTECH AIR CONDITIONING LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by the 10th day of March, 1982, in order that they may be included in the list of creditors to be presented to the Court for the purpose of being admitted to the status of creditors.

RE: EUROTECH (MECHANICAL SERVICES) LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by the 10th day of March, 1982, in order that they may be included in the list of creditors to be presented to the Court for the purpose of being admitted to the status of creditors.

RE: BRITTON FAIR TRADING LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by the 10th day of March, 1982, in order that they may be included in the list of creditors to be presented to the Court for the purpose of being admitted to the status of creditors.

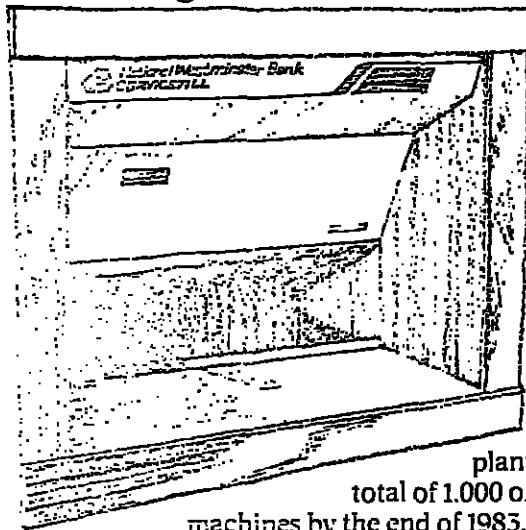
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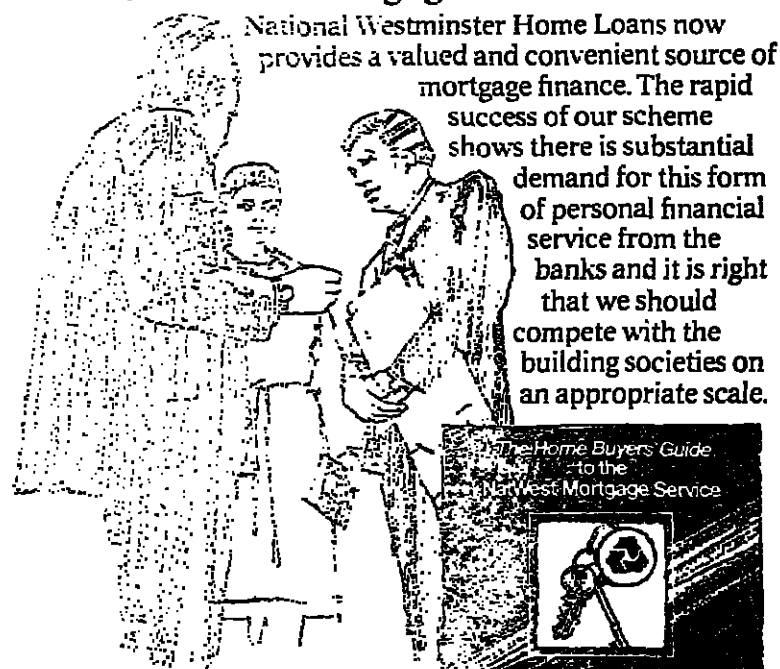
A world's eye view from NatWest

Extending our service to customers



In the increasingly competitive environment in 1982 we will continue to concentrate all our efforts into providing a first-class service to our customers, recognising their special and often individual needs. We now have well over 500 Servicetills operating on a 24-hour basis throughout the U.K., dispensing over £40m each month, already the largest network of its type in Europe. It is planned to have a total of 1,000 of these machines by the end of 1983. Towards the end of this year we plan to introduce a new quick-action customer-operated cash dispensing machine sited inside branches.

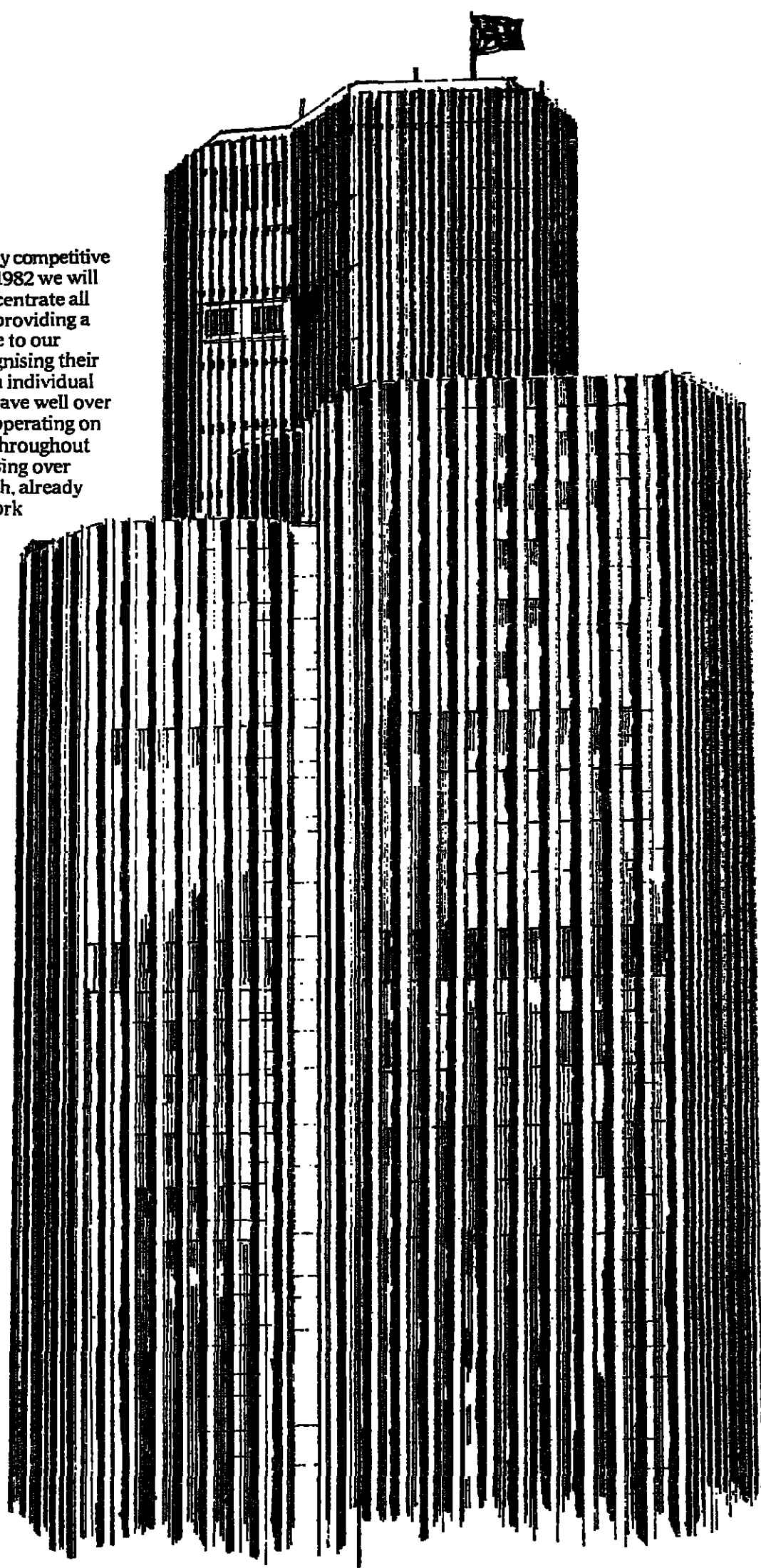
The NatWest Mortgage Service



National Westminster Home Loans now provides a valued and convenient source of mortgage finance. The rapid success of our scheme shows there is substantial demand for this form of personal financial service from the banks and it is right that we should compete with the building societies on an appropriate scale.

NatWest and Small Businesses

We have continued our policy of support for small businesses and have again held down interest rates on Business Development Loans whilst raising the upper limit for this facility to £250,000 to meet the needs of our customers. We completed during 1981, for instance, our 50,000th loan under our Business Development Loan Scheme and an increase of over 40% in lending to a total of £489m indicates the value and flexibility, as well as the competitiveness, of this kind of facility. We are also lending under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and our interest terms are the cheapest of the four major clearing banks.



A Royal Opening for the National Westminster Tower

The cover of our Annual Report shows the Royal Standard flying over the National Westminster Tower on 11 June 1981. This was truly a memorable occasion when we were honoured by a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to declare the Tower formally open.

NatWest Bank Trophy

1981 saw the introduction of the competition for the National Westminster Bank Trophy. After a series of exciting matches, the Trophy was won by Derbyshire - literally on the last ball - when they defeated Northants in a closely contested Final at Lord's.



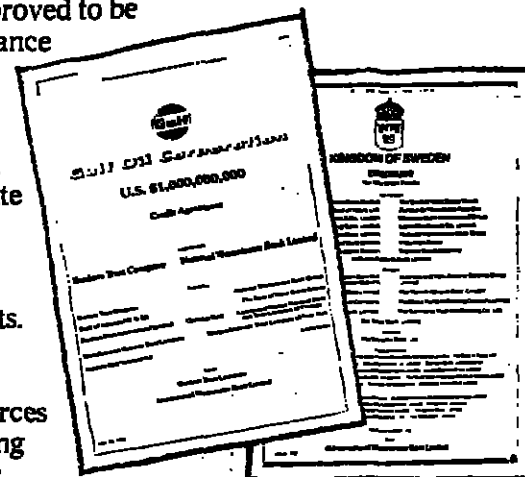
Our international presence

We see the Far East as offering major growth potential and in August an offshore executive office was opened in Singapore with a catchment area extending from China to Australasia and including Burma and the ASEAN countries. Our Canadian subsidiary applied for chartered status, now granted, and under its new name - National Westminster Bank of Canada, with an office opened in Montreal - we look to a material expansion of our business in that country to complement our substantial representation in the United States. In Germany, the activities of International Westminster Bank based in Frankfurt have been merged with our subsidiary Global Bank AG with effect from 4 January 1982 to form a new wholly-owned Group subsidiary called Deutsche Westminster Bank AG.



Corporate Finance

Our experience has proved to be of the utmost importance in meeting the sophisticated requirements of our corporate customers. We continue to operate in a very competitive environment, none more so than in the Eurocurrency markets. The need to make judicious use of the world's natural resources has meant a continuing involvement in major projects, particularly in the energy and related industries.



Youth opportunities with NatWest

Unemployment remains a pressing problem, especially amongst the young, and in recognising this we have increased the number of places made available each year under the Manpower Services Commission, Work Experience Programme. The Bank remains a major recruiter and is thus making a continuous contribution to employment levels among the lower age groups. We have also made grants available to bodies doing research into unemployment and have seconded able and senior managers to the job creation schemes.



Comments from the Chairman - Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton

The improved profit is attributable to increased volumes of business handled by a marginally smaller number of staff using increasingly sophisticated electronic equipment. It is a very satisfactory performance particularly having in mind the 3% reduction in the average base rate in the UK and shows that our profits are little influenced by fortuitous circumstances outside our control.

The world economy during 1981 was very subdued, with low growth and rising unemployment in most countries. Governments in general were unable to adopt expansionary policies, because inflation remained high and payments imbalances were still very large. 1981 will be remembered as a frustrating year for the British economy and it has become apparent that the high inflation of past years is deeply embedded leaving British industry more seriously uncompetitive than remedial measures over the past two years have been able to correct. Government measures which are designed to reduce the cost burden on industry and to enable it to be more competitive are most likely to stimulate economic activity without introducing inflationary pressure. We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy; for us as a bank it has been a matter of judicious

Financial Highlights 1981

Ordinary share capital	£237 million
Reserves	£1,969 million
Money lodged	£39,709 million
Money lent	£31,791 million
Group pre-tax profit	£494 million
Retained profit	£273 million

Copies of the Report and Accounts, which include the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary's Office, National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

balance to ensure that at the same time we were not insensitive to the needs of our customers.

Our international banking policy remains appropriate to the difficult and highly competitive world scene, and we continue to seek good opportunities for growth of our existing business and expansion of our representation. We remain confident that our overseas loan portfolio is carefully balanced and distributed, and we shall continue to observe those principles of policy which we believe will contain our risks to acceptable levels. In the United States there is some prospect of recovery in the latter part of 1982 which should help to stimulate the economies of the industrialised countries in Europe.

I should say something by way of explanation of a policy of allowing loans for personal consumption to rise at a time when the demand from manufacturing and exporting customers remains below the level of available bank credit. Most personal loans are structured to be of short duration and repayment terms in our experience are scrupulously observed. We feel satisfied, therefore, in extending to that category of customer which contributes so much to our deposit base, a service which will not conflict with a commitment to provide adequate funds for manufacturing and exporting customers when the economy expands and the need arises.

NatWest Bank Group

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

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هكذا من الاعمال

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By the second day of the week, the Piquet was moving on to the front line. At that point, the Battalion commander, Ricardo Piquet, was taken from his command post by a bullet in the back of the head. He was the first of the Battalion to be killed. The Battalion commander, Ricardo Piquet, was taken from his command post by a bullet in the back of the head. He was the first of the Battalion to be killed. The Battalion commander, Ricardo Piquet, was taken from his command post by a bullet in the back of the head. He was the first of the Battalion to be killed.

SPORT

How Wales were put to the claymore

By David Hands

Wales.....34
Scotland.....18

Wales, who lived so successfully by the sword during their golden days of the seventies, perished by the sword on Saturday. The sparkling cutting edge of some of the world's best back was but a memory at Cardiff's National Stadium as Scotland's attack tore through the Welsh defence time and again in helping record the highest total by an opposing XV in the history of the game.

The inadequacies of the Welsh backs have been apparent all season and Scotland rammed the lesson home, while Wales return to the basics, to be fed to them by the wooden spoon which they now hold jointly with France. Scotland can glow with pride after victory by four goals, a try and two dropped goals against a goal and four penalties.

Success which included the try of this and many other championships. The Welsh, in contrast, could do nothing right behind the scrum. They dominated the lineout, the new cap Norrie doing well, but the scrum was better and the flankers, Burgess and Lewis, were outstanding in setting up second-phase ball.

In their first move Wales attempted a switch which came to

grief and it swiftly became apparent that Scotland's attack was the practical thing was for Davies to use the touchline and then attack the Scottish goal line close to his forwards. In the end Wales tried to do that and to run the ball, in doing the latter they assisted Scotland to three of their five tries and it was to the infinite credit of the Welsh crowd that they gave generous applause to the running of the visiting backs.

Critically, the Welsh defence close to the scrum was exposed, as Ireland and, to a lesser extent, England, had done earlier in the season. Top often the first tackle was ineffective and the driving force of the attack was in particular opened the door to further scores. Dickson came on in the first quarter after Paxton had damaged knee ligaments in a tackle from Rees in the build-up to Calder's try and the ginger-haired Gale forward played what Irvine described as his best game in a Scottish jersey.

There was no hint of what was to come when Scotland's first try penalty. Wales had established territorial domination and held it throughout the match. Scotland conceded two penalties, particularly from lineouts, and did so throughout the match. But nothing, not even the National Stadium's first male streaker, could put them off the game.

Then it was Renwick, who has scored a try on each of his last two visits to Cardiff. He dropped a fine goal on the run then accepted Calder's pass to scamper 50 metres for a try at the penalties by Irvine. Two penalties by Irvine restored sanity and a half-time score of



Final try: Johnston caught in the act of running Wales into the ground

13-9 kept Wales firmly in the hunt. A dropped ball by the Welsh midfield was the prelude to the third try, the Scottish backs sweeping through and giving Pollock a try on his debut. Irvine converted as he did twice more when White drove over from a five-metre scrum and Johnston, scything through, scored the fifth. Rutherford dropped a goal to complete a fine record of scoring in all championship games this season, leaving Wales with a try and a conversion and penalty by Evans.

Wales: G. Evans (captain), R. A. Ackermann (Scrummer), R. W. R. Grant (Scrummer), J. D. Brown (Scrummer), C. F. W. Jones (Scrummer), W. G. Davies (Scrummer), D. J. Johnston (Scrummer), I. Johnston (Scrummer), A. J. Johnston (Scrummer), S. Price (Scrummer), R. C. Burgess (Scrummer), R. L. Morris (Scrummer), C. E. T. Butler (Scrummer).

Scotland: A. Irvine (Scrummer), R. A. Ackermann (Scrummer), D. J. Johnston (Scrummer), I. Johnston (Scrummer), A. J. Johnston (Scrummer), S. Price (Scrummer), R. C. Burgess (Scrummer), R. L. Morris (Scrummer), C. E. T. Butler (Scrummer).



Papambrorde, the French hooker, passes the ball to scrum-half Berbizier after winning the maul

Ireland able to defeat with

By Peter West, Rugby

France.....22
Ireland.....9

It was clear at Parc des Princes on Saturday that the four weeks since their heavy victory over Scotland had been long enough for the Irish to go off the boil. Moreover, without Duggan, who was badly needed to help muzzle the formidable Joliet, they had the misfortune to meet the best French side of the championship, a national selection containing seven of the forwards that shared the grand slam last season.

The performance of these forwards at the set pieces was supported by a near-immaculate effort at half-back, notably by Lescarboura at stand-off. The result was never in doubt from the moment when Ireland, who were trailing 6-7 in the third quarter of the game, threw away what should have been a certain try.

By their emphatic victory — a goal, four penalty goals and a try to three penalties — France ended a sequence of seven losses against countries of the former national Board, avoided the indignity of a whitewash in the championship, and hoisted themselves level with Wales in bottom place.

As they invariably do, the Irish accepted defeat with excellent grace. "We've no hang-ups," said their captain, K. Clancy, "Fitzgerald, cheerfully observed, 'We were well and truly beaten. We knew this would be a very different French pack, and I felt at half-time they were going to give us a good season for us. No-one should be away from a championship or the triple crown.'"

By the interval, when Ireland enjoyed an uneasy 3-0 advantage, the visiting forwards were out of their skins. They had withstood some intensive pressure in the course of which, first Ringland, then Clancy, then Campbell, had just saved their line from kicks through by Lescarboura and Gabet. They were lucky when Gabetnet pulled a kicking penalty.

But early in the second period, from a French lineout won by Joliet and Rives, Berbizier switched play to the short side and Lescarboura, finding a generous amount of room, committed the Irish cover to putting the ball through the posts. Ringland, who had been put on the touch line, tapped it on and just outpaced Ringland for the touchdown.

It was at this point that Ireland blew their last clear chance of remaining in contention. McGrath having split the French defence with a break through the middle, Slater was charged by the last tackler on the 22 with Campbell clear on his left and delayed a pass which the referee, Alan Welshy, was satisfied had

fallen offside. When Rives, MacNeill an impossible, hospital pass under pressure which rebounded off the full back's chest. Poor Slater, instinctively reacting in an offside position, was apprehended again. Gabetnet made it 16-6. It was not a distinguished Irish flanker's happiest afternoon.

In due course Campbell landed his third penalty to end the game. Ireland by this time were in a state of near desperate disarray, and France finally put the icing on the cake when their forwards took a second strike against the head. Berbizier, dummed to pass inside to Rives, but instead made space for Lescarboura to clear through the middle at close range and to provide a pass for Mesny to score by the posts.

The other home countries may be thankful that it took the French selectors four matches to restore a proven, effective recipe up front. The presence of Papambrorde and Dospital in the front row, and of Imbernon with Revallier in the engine room, ensured a solid scrumgame pace.

Joining accurately yet again the French player of the season, was immense at the lineout and in the loose, and one wondered why Ireland in the early stages so busily threw long in a direction. Ireland have gathered some welcome pickings at the lineout this championship, but not now. Lanning and Keane had a muddled day, and Duggan was missed in more ways than one.

In the second quarter, Campbell kicked his first, comforted goal when Ditrans, who spent much of his afternoon exploring the late tackle laws to their limits, was penalised for kicking in the scrum. Then Imbernon was apprehended for stamping at a ruck, and Campbell put Ireland in front, for the only time.

FRANCE: S. Gabetnet (Scrummer), S. Blasco (Scrummer), P. Mesny (Scrummer), K. Clancy (Scrummer), J. D. Brown (Scrummer), C. F. W. Jones (Scrummer), W. G. Davies (Scrummer), D. J. Johnston (Scrummer), I. Johnston (Scrummer), A. J. Johnston (Scrummer), S. Price (Scrummer), R. C. Burgess (Scrummer), R. L. Morris (Scrummer), C. E. T. Butler (Scrummer).

IRELAND: K. Clancy (Scrummer), S. Blasco (Scrummer), P. Mesny (Scrummer), K. Clancy (Scrummer), J. D. Brown (Scrummer), C. F. W. Jones (Scrummer), W. G. Davies (Scrummer), D. J. Johnston (Scrummer), I. Johnston (Scrummer), A. J. Johnston (Scrummer), S. Price (Scrummer), R. C. Burgess (Scrummer), R. L. Morris (Scrummer), C. E. T. Butler (Scrummer).

Final table

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	Diff
Ireland	4	3	0	1	68	16
England	4	2	1	1	64	10
France	4	2	0	2	56	7
Wales	4	1	0	3	58	22

Gaytonians find the gulf too much to bridge

By Peter Marson

Old Gaytonians.....9
Wassps.....25

Save for one or two isolated moments when the magnitude of the occasion corrupted better judgment, Old Gaytonians were formed creditably in the Middlesex cup final on Old Merchant Tylors ground at Croydon Green, yesterday.

Yet there was little that was unfamiliar to the embroidery on this lopsided pattern, with the bigger fish allowing the small fry to manoeuvre. Thus Wassps won stylishly and with a flourish at the end by two goals, a try and three penalty goals to three penalties.

Those six penalties shared by Stringer (2) Hughes and Yarrow (2) stood against another seven failures by Stringer and Yarrow and a gainst a grand total of 33 penalties and a sprinkling of free kicks. In the circumstances, Russell had no option but to make his awards ill in the way he did, but a constant stream of misjudgments and errors in rhythm and a staccato performance was the result.

On a pitch heavy with moisture and strewn with sand the kickers did tolerably well with Stringer, aided by two conversions, win-

ning his battle with Yarrow by a single point.

For a formidable and mobile pack in which their captain, Williams, and Maxted worked tirelessly, Old Gaytonians were out of their skins. They were right; the half backs, too, nearly spliced skill to a fine spirit.

But the gulf between the sides was obvious with Wassps, ally led by the All Black, Taylor, fielding three internationals, and an England under-23 player.

Wassps led by 10-6 at half time with the balance of four penalties. As Wassps drew away their strength was reflected in two excellent tries by Taylor and Cardus.

OLD GAYTONIANS: M. Raftery, A. Yarrow, I. Johnston, J. D. Brown, C. F. W. Jones, W. G. Davies, D. J. Johnston, I. Johnston, A. J. Johnston, S. Price, R. C. Burgess, R. L. Morris, C. E. T. Butler.

Hawick come closer to a coveted double

By Iain Mackenzie

Hawick.....33
Langholm.....9

Hawick, the most successful post-war club in Scotland, are almost back where they belong. Just over a week ago they regained their national title with a win over Watsonians and on Saturday they came close to completing the "double" by winning the Border League.

Hawick won by three goals, a goal and a penalty, but it was not that easy. It now remains to be seen if the club can repeat the feat. The club's success has been a surprise to many, as they have not won the Border League since 1961.

It seems likely that they will repeat the feat. The club's success has been a surprise to many, as they have not won the Border League since 1961. The club's success has been a surprise to many, as they have not won the Border League since 1961.

French too subtle for industrious England

BY Gordon Allan

England Colts.....16
France Youth.....3

Matches between the England Colts and France Youth teams began in 1977. England have yet to win. The last time they lost was in the series, at Portsmouth on Saturday, by a goal, a try, a dropped goal and a penalty goal to a dropped goal.

If there was any doubt in the early part of the game as to who were the better team, there was none by the end. For solidarity and industry, you could not fault England. For subtlety and vision, you had to hand it to the French.

Their forward, with Arthippen, conspicuous at No. 8, made up in ball-winning ability at the rucks what they lacked in power in the line, and their backs turned half chances into real ones with light-fingered improvisation.

The England backs were shadowed, batters by comparison. Increasingly, they tried to do too much on their own instead of supporting each other, like the French. Resolute tackling snuffed them out. Jermyn stand-off kicked well. Heslop showed determination, and Swales, apart from missing two short-range penalties, had a good match.

Jermyn dropped a goal to put England ahead. Gely scored the first French try when Lescure came into the line and Curcuter took the ball to the corner before flicking it inside with a pass late enough to be called an afterthought.

In the second half, Lescure kicked a penalty, converted a try by Silva, and dropped a goal. Silva's try proved how dangerous the French were in counter-attack and how uncertain the England defence sometimes was against the unorthodox.

It was a pleasant occasion. The sun shone lazily, the flags fluttered, and the Royal Marines band played and marched. It was a pleasant match, with scarcely one premeditated crash ball to remind us of routine. The French hinted at why, on their day, they are the best rugby players in the world.

We shall hear more of Lescure, Bonneau, Silva, Arthippen, and yet another Cantarero, who won a French stand-off 14 years ago. On the English side, watch out for Swales, Jermyn, Keast (a 17st 4lb farmer), Pratt, and John Ingram, whose 200 lb David, was among the replacements. Watch out also for what happens at Aberavon on April 3, when England play Wales.

ENGLAND COLTS: P. Swales (Scrummer), M. Heslop (Scrummer), D. J. Johnston (Scrummer), I. Johnston (Scrummer), A. J. Johnston (Scrummer), S. Price (Scrummer), R. C. Burgess (Scrummer), R. L. Morris (Scrummer), C. E. T. Butler (Scrummer).

FRANCE YOUTH: J. M. Lescure (Scrummer), D. J. Johnston (Scrummer), I. Johnston (Scrummer), A. J. Johnston (Scrummer), S. Price (Scrummer), R. C. Burgess (Scrummer), R. L. Morris (Scrummer), C. E. T. Butler (Scrummer).

Referee: J. P. Borneil (France).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leaders win to keep race for title close

By Keith Macklin

The battle for the first division championship, sponsored by Slalom Lager, remains at tight and gripping as ever. The three leading clubs Widnes, Leigh and Hull all won at home yesterday, and the tense closeness of the championship struggle was accurately shown in the Widnes game against Hull Kingston Rovers.

After a fiercely fought game, for which the Rovers' players were reputedly on a bonus of £200 a man, Widnes won through by the score first half penalty goal from John Myler. This defeat probably ended Rovers' hopes of winning the championship, although they can still finish in the top four.

Leigh also had to struggle before beating Barrow 11-7. Leigh ran away with the game in the opening quarter and some excellent rugby brought tries from Cooke and Hogan, with two goals from Widnes. However, once the initial momentum ran out of steam Barrow came strongly back into the game. A try and a dropped goal from the same player brought Barrow back to 10-7. Leigh were greatly relieved when Donlan dropped a late goal to clinch victory.

Hull, in third place, had a simple task in disposing of the bottom club Whitehaven 35-0, and the club's players were like Widnes, on course for the cup and league double.

Perhaps the most outstanding and astounding feat of the day was Bradford Northern's victory by 21-0 at Warrington, where few sides are allowed to run riot. This win improves Northern's chances of making the top eight overall, and it also fulfils hopes of Warrington. Wigan who beat Castleford, and Leeds who beat Featherstone after trailing at half-time, improved their top eight prospects.

In the second division Oldham retained their leadership of the table with wins at Batley and at home to Keighley respectively, and the points for the second division's play-off must be handed to Cardiff City, who beat the strong promotion candidates Halifax at Thurham Hall.

Final Division One table: 1. Wigan 17; 2. Bradford Northern 14; 3. Leeds 12; 4. Featherstone Rovers 12; 5. Barrow 10; 6. Warrington 8; 7. Hull 7; 8. Whitehaven 6; 9. Wigan 5; 10. Bradford Northern 4; 11. Wigan 3; 12. Bradford Northern 2; 13. Wigan 1; 14. Bradford Northern 0.

Still losing with style

By John Clemison

Fulham.....2
St Helens.....17

St Helens, who are currently well in form, did all that was expected of them and gave a convincing performance at Fulham. The visitors, who were beaten by three tries, three goals and two dropped goals to a goal. Yet they showed that they are capable of providing the toughest opposition for long periods. Their skill and determination set them apart from the run of the mill second division sides.

Fulham's chances of surviving in the first division are even slimmer after yesterday's embarrassing defeat at St Helens. The visitors, who were beaten by three tries, three goals and two dropped goals to a goal. Yet they showed that they are capable of providing the toughest opposition for long periods. Their skill and determination set them apart from the run of the mill second division sides.

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Lietzke's view from front

From John Ballantine, Jacksonville (Florida), March 21

Bruce Lietzke scored 69 to 20 "Brad" Bryant in the lead on Jio with one round to play today. It was a close race, but Lietzke's forecast that he would "take a final 69 to stay home" and that would probably be the end of his career in the tournament.

Ballesteros, with 69 and Nick Faldo, whose 75 included a six at the 172-yard 13th, still have a chance to win the money, with a first prize of £50,000 and the 29th finisher getting £2,000. The Spaniard will miss the next two events at Hilton, Hilton Island and at Greensboro, where he was in 1978, and will return early in the week of the Masters, April 8 to 11.

THE ROUND (US time, started: 7:15 p.m. EDT, 7:30 a.m. EDT, 7:45 a.m. EDT, 8:00 a.m. EDT, 8:15 a.m. EDT, 8:30 a.m. EDT, 8:45 a.m. EDT, 9:00 a.m. EDT, 9:15 a.m. EDT, 9:30 a.m. EDT, 9:45 a.m. EDT, 10:00 a.m. EDT, 10:15 a.m. EDT, 10:30 a.m. EDT, 10:45 a.m. EDT, 11:00 a.m. EDT, 11:15 a.m. EDT, 11:30 a.m. EDT, 11:45 a.m. EDT, 12:00 a.m. EDT, 12:15 a.m. EDT, 12:30 a.m. EDT, 12:45 a.m. EDT, 1:00 a.m. EDT, 1:15 a.m. EDT, 1:30 a.m. EDT, 1:45 a.m. EDT, 2:00 a.m. EDT, 2:15 a.m. EDT, 2:30 a.m. EDT, 2:45 a.m. EDT, 3:00 a.m. EDT, 3:15 a.m. EDT, 3:30 a.m. EDT, 3:45 a.m. EDT, 4:00 a.m. EDT, 4:15 a.m. EDT, 4:30 a.m. EDT, 4:45 a.m. EDT, 5:00 a.m. EDT, 5:15 a.m. EDT, 5:30 a.m. EDT, 5:45 a.m. EDT, 6:00 a.m. EDT, 6:15 a.m. EDT, 6:30 a.m. EDT, 6:45 a.m. EDT, 7:00 a.m. EDT, 7:15 a.m. EDT, 7:30 a.m. EDT, 7:45 a.m. EDT, 8:00 a.m. EDT, 8:15 a.m. EDT, 8:30 a.m. EDT, 8:45 a.m. EDT, 9:00 a.m. EDT, 9:15 a.m. EDT, 9:30 a.m. EDT, 9:45 a.m. EDT, 10:00 a.m. EDT, 10:15 a.m. EDT, 10:30 a.m. EDT, 10:45 a.m. EDT, 11:00 a.m. 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Commercial Property by Baron Phillips

End of the city megacentre

The age of the large city centre shopping centre is almost over. Recession and changing shopping habits are reflected in the substantial downturn of retailing schemes under construction over the past 12 months.

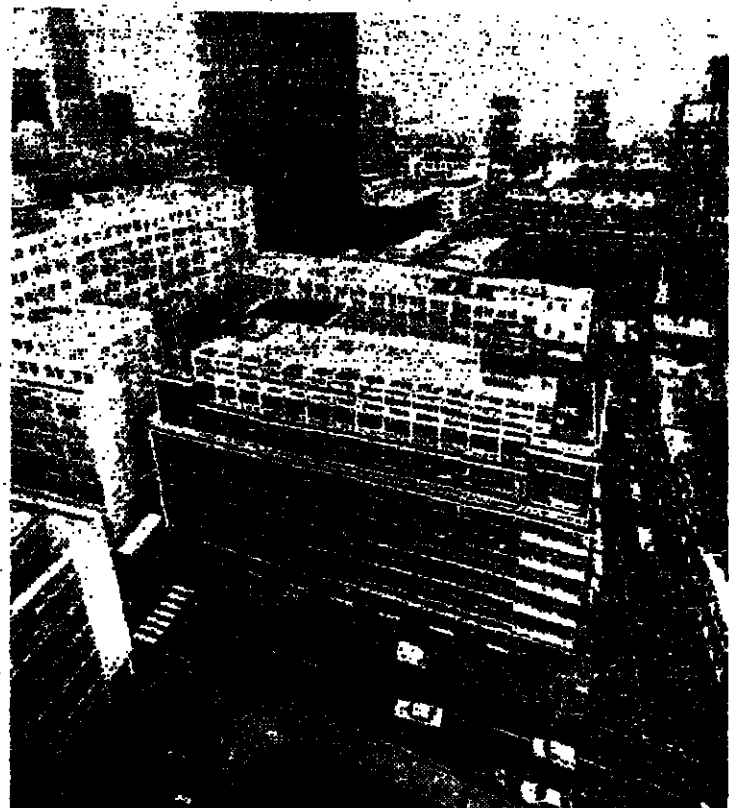
According to agents Hillier Parker the amount of space actually under construction has dropped by a third since March 1981. Although there are plenty of developments on the drawing board they will not be mammoth urban centres like Brent Cross.

Willier Parker show that over the past 12 months space being built has fallen to about 6,500,000 sq ft compared with more than nine million sq ft in March 1981. But as Dr Russell Schiller research chief of H.P. points out there was a lot of activity over the last year with a number of major retail openings such as the huge scheme at Peterborough.

Most of the openings which have taken place this year reflected the fruition of plans which were laid during the boom of the late 1970s, says Dr Schiller, although there is likely to be a slow down over the next year or so.

Surprisingly, while there may be fewer openings in the coming year, there is a huge amount of development in the pipeline. According to the research by Dr Schiller and his team there is in the region of 14 million sq ft of shopping space proposed, that is where detailed planning permission has not yet been granted. At the same time the amount of space which has received permission has increased by more than 20 per cent from 10,200,000 sq ft to 12,540,000 sq ft.

One interesting aspect to come out of the latest H.P. research is that for some years the average size of shopping developments has been declining. Since the late 1970s, when the average size of a development was 232,000 sq ft, there has been a steady fall



Following accountants Ernst & Whinney's acquisition of a new headquarters building, they are now seeking to dispose of their head office block at 57, Chancery Lane, close to Finsbury Square on the edge of the City, through agents Gooch & Wagstaff. Covering more than 98,000 sq ft, the building, with vacant possession of almost 78,000 sq ft, will be available from late summer. Ernst & Whinney are moving to Beckett House, Lambeth Palace Road.

until this year. There is now indication that this trend is being reversed. Average sizes for schemes planned for this year are about 151,000 sq ft compared with the present construction size of 138,000 sq ft.

But even so the agents conclude that the day of the large city centre shopping development is probably over. The latest giant was the recently opened Peterborough scheme at about 500,000 sq ft and certainly there are plans to emulate the successful formula of the one million sq ft Brent Cross centre in north London.

either proposed developments of those under construction is heavily geared to London and the South-east. The two areas presently account for more than 60 per cent of all shopping schemes being built and a further 54 per cent of planned schemes. The only other area to show future growth is Scotland where a fifth of planned developments are to be located.

And it is in the Greater London area that a number of major buildings are planned or under construction. At Bexleyheath there is a scheme for more than 400,000 sq ft of shopping, in Croydon Debenhams plan a major development and at Ealing a 200,000 sq ft centre is under way.

What is beginning to emerge, says Dr Schiller, is that while the large developments are planned or under construction, there is plenty of scope for building over the next decade or so. He expects we will witness a surge in the number of district centres and the second and third phase developments added on to existing major urban shopping schemes.

With developers looking outside the traditional urban conurbations the scope of building will be smaller, says Dr Schiller, reckoning the order of development will be in the 150,000 sq ft to 200,000 sq ft range.

Norwich Union again heads the list of developers with most floorspace under construction or planned, followed by Breders, Taylor Woodrow, Town & City and Crutcher. Only three of the leading developers active between 1965 and 1981 are still in the top 10 today - Town & City, Laing, and Norwich Union.

Dr Schiller points out another change in the structure of shopping centre development. Major developers are taking a smaller share of the total cake. While the leading companies accounted for 28 per cent of the space completed this year the top three are only responsible for 16 per cent of the floorspace under construction or planned.

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